

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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I N S I D E



Peace Efforts

Obama embraces the Palestinians' terms for drawing the borders of their new nation.

NATION...Page 10



Satellite Office

Buying a home in the Philippines can now be simple and trouble-free.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12



No Comeback

Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger delays his Hollywood comeback.

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CUC fails to meet deadline to hire technical manager for oil. PAGE 5

REBATES, REFUNDS, CHILD TAX CREDIT

No early release of checks this year

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

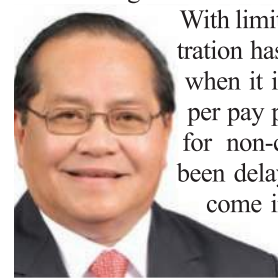


No checks for rebates, refunds or child tax credit for tax year 2010 will be issued in July or earlier this year. The earliest release could be in August or September, back to the way they were in previous years.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that this is because of cash shortage and lack of manpower to process the checks.

With limited revenue coming in, the administration has been prioritizing payroll at a time when it is implementing 16-hour work cuts per pay period and unpaid holidays. Payroll for non-critical employees has oftentimes been delayed since June 2010 as collections come in trickles amid low tourist arrivals and an overall slow economy.

Those in the rebate trust ac-
See CHECKS on Page 4



Inos

VISITING STUDENTS

Japanese students under the auspices of the Hasaki Rotary Club join the congregates at the Man'amko Center in Garapan. The students visited Saipan as part of an exchange program. The students arrived on May 15 together with 10 Hasaki Rotary Club members.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Adams' selection as NMC prexy questioned

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two community members cautioned the Board of Regents yesterday to be careful in its selection of the next president for the Northern Marianas College, citing reports that the individual the board has selected, Dr. Christa Adams, had received a "no-confidence vote" at her previous post.

Former NMC president Agnes McPhetres and former lawmaker Oscar Rasa, who spoke during the public com-



Adams

See ADAMS on Page 4

Prices at gas pump painful for four in 10 Americans

JENNIFER C. KERR and
JENNIFER AGIESTA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—With gasoline prices hovering at \$4 a gallon nationally, many Americans are making tough choices: scaling back summer vacations, driving less or ditching the car altogether. Some seniors are choosing a tank of gas over their prescriptions.

An Associated Press-GfK poll shows the share of Americans who say increases in the price of gasoline will cause serious financial hardship for them or their family in the next six months now tops 4 in 10.

Overall in the poll, 71 percent said rising prices will cause some hardship for them and their family, including 41 percent who called it a "serious" hardship. Just 29 percent said rising prices are not causing a negative impact on

their finances.

By income, 63 percent of those with annual household incomes over \$50,000 now say rising prices are causing financial hardship, up from 55 percent in March.

ON THE NET

<http://www.ap-gfkpoll.com>

Pinch at the pump
U.S. gasoline prices are \$1.10 a gallon higher than a year ago.
Avg. price per gallon for regular gas:

May 16	396
April 25	388
March 28	360
Feb. 28	338

Source: Energy Information Administration

By Anne R. Carey and Karl Gelles, USA TODAY



For older Americans, it's worse.

The share of seniors expressing financial hardship over gas prices hit 76 percent; it was 68 percent in March.

Nettie Cash, 65, of Dallas, Ga., is cutting back on her medicine because of the cost of fueling up her Buick. Cash is still taking her heart pills but is forgoing her inhaler and ulcer medicine for now.

"It's not easy," she said. "You have to do what you have to do."

The public's coping strategies are largely unchanged from March, with 72 percent having cut back on other expenses, 66 percent saying they've reduced the amount of

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Local

Responders accomplish KONFITMA goals at earlier time



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

» 5 terrorists 'killed', one 'injured' in gun battle
 » Communications protocol, equipment need to be improved

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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 REPORTER

The full scale all-hazard exercise "KONFITMA" was designed to last no more than 36 hours, but responders were able to accomplish their goals at an earlier time, according to a

homeland security official.

Marvin K. Seman, special assistant for the Office of Homeland Security, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the duration of the exercise actually depended on the responders' ability and capability to take all the necessary information gathered

through the various incidents and address them safely and effectively.

"In this case, the various agencies and teams worked together and were able to address them in an earlier time. They were able to address and accomplish their goals and save

our community," Seman said.

The assessment of the "After-Action Report" or Hotwash Conference was held yesterday at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Overall, the teams involved did an outstanding job, Seman said, given that they had five highly challenging scenarios to

address within 24 to 36 hours.

Among the areas that need to be improved are:

- Communications protocol and equipment, both in the Emergency Operations Center and out at the scene.
- EOC and command trainings.
- Response equipment for responders.

The exercise kicked off on Tuesday morning and was completed on Wednesday at 9:30am.

The first four terrorist-related scenarios were: a hijacked boat that causes a chemical emissions at Charlie Dock; an explosion that triggers a fire and collapses a structure in Kagman; a gas leak at a water reservoir on Navy Hill; and a hostage taking and food poisoning at Hopwood Junior High School.

Seman said in the Navy Hill scenario, a group of "terrorists" broke into the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Water Treatment Facility on Navy Hill and tried to disrupt the water system and steal chlorine gas for their plot to cause harm.

The last scenario was on Wednesday when the CNMI Emergency Operations Center,

along with federal and local enforcement officers, received information that the "terrorist group" behind all the attacks were located at a commercial building in Lower Base.

Responding CNMI and federal law enforcement and response agencies and the U.S. National Guards from Guam, Hawaii, and Alaska joined forces to neutralize the "terrorists" and prevent a catastrophic incident from happening.

Various response teams faced a gun battle with the terrorists who tried to defend their stronghold and the explosives, chemicals, biological, and radiological materials that they were supposed to use.

Seman said five suspects were "killed," another suspect was "injured," and 511 victims were "injured" in all these attacks.

Seman thanked all exercise participants on behalf of the governor and lieutenant governor, U.S. Army Pacific Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team Enhanced Response Package Training and Readiness Division, and the CNMI Homeland Security Office.

CUC sets power outage today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled an emergency power interruption today May 21, 2011, on the Feeder 2, second partial circuit from 5:30am to 7:30am.

This will affect the Tony Roma's Restaurant south on Beach Road to the Beach Road/Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road intersection.

The purpose of the power interruption is to provide safety to the line crew as they replace a defective air break switch on the primary lines near the Garapan Fishing Base. The ABS is

an isolation switch that provides the line crew the ability to isolate specific areas of the electrical grid when needed. This ability will assist the crews in minimizing any inconvenience to its consumers and the public when performing future maintenance and repairs to the electrical system.

"CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this scheduled power interruption may impose on the community and its consumer's and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions," CUC said in a statement. (CUC)

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Panel to look into allegations relating to Marpi poles project

House Natural Resources Committee chair Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said the panel will look into allegations of wrongdoing and improprieties in connection with the installation of power poles in Marpi, now that the public hearings wrapped up Wednesday night.

"It's now time for us to look into these allegations, and meet with officials from the Capital Improvement Project office," he told reporters yesterday.

The crowd was larger during Wednesday night's public hearing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe compared to last week's, held at the Legislature.

Most of those who testified were opposed to the installation of the power poles in Marpi, and want the government to uproot them and instead use renewable energy sources for the Marpi public cemetery and the Veterans' Cemetery.

Some of them said the public hearing was no longer only about ways to preserve the beauty of Marpi and complying

with local and federal requirements when it comes to construction at historic sites, but more about the need for power and water supply at Marpi residential dwellings, farms, and ranches to improve their quality of life.

But while opposition to the Marpi power poles remains loud and clear, a group supporting these power poles is also gaining traction with their signature campaign.

Friends of Marpi's Tina Sablan, however, said yesterday that there was a lot more common ground on Wednesday night than she thinks some people might have expected.

She also noted that not a single person said he was against all development in Marpi, against landowners in Marpi or anywhere having access to power and clean water, or against proper planning and public hearings.

Sablan also noted that of the four Marpi landowners who testified, one favored taking down the poles, developing a plan, and bringing green energy to the landowners in Marpi.

"I do believe that this controversy is very solvable, and presents one of those rare opportunities for all parties to win. It's wonderful that we are finally having hearings and discussing these issues of development

and planning as a community. There are a lot of great ideas out there as well as important human needs that can be met with proper planning, transparency, public consultation, and vision," she said.

Palacios said the House Natural Resources Committee will carefully compile and review all comments and concerns they gathered during the public hearing, for presentation to the court and the public.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo issued a preliminary injunction that momentarily stops for 90 days the CNMI government from completing its power poles project in Marpi. (HVE)



BARTENDERS' COMPETITION

Competitors in the Northern Mariana Islands Bartenders Cocktail Competition will face off at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden tonight. The annual festival, sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, is held each Saturday during May Tourism Month at American Memorial Park on Saipan and features food, live entertainment, and nightly competitions. The bartenders' competition will kick off at 6pm and features Ma. Theresa Rio and Raymond E. Tolentino of Pacific Islands Club Saipan; Marlon Pineda of Saipan World Resort; Ernie Garcia and Helen Borja of Hyatt Regency Saipan; Roland Fernandez of LaoLao Bay Golf Resort; Joseph Solmarin of Hard Rock Café; Mark Nuique and Jay Santos of The Flair; Mike Benavente and Ed Flores of GIG Discotheque; and Ramil Eustaquio of Wonderful Bar. MVA

Fund posts high market returns this fiscal year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has been seeing high market returns on its investments since the start of the fiscal year, according to Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, but its total value has not been growing significantly due to the continuous withdrawals being made on these funds.

As of April 30 this year, the estimated market value of the Fund's assets was at \$328 million—a \$3-million increase from the \$325 million posted on April 3, 2011.

Villagomez disclosed that the fiscal year-to-date return—or from Oct. 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011—was at 15.41 percent, while the market return from calendar year-to-date, or from January to April 2011, was at 7.2 percent.

The estimated return for April is 2.6 percent, with December having the highest return at 4.1 percent. The average monthly return is between 1 and 2 percent.

From a performance perspective, the numbers are "very positive and healthy," he said.

"[Based on these numbers], we've been benefiting from a very generous market. Our returns are positive. However, the value of our assets is not growing significantly because [of] higher drawdowns," Villagomez told the Fund board of trustees.

The Fund assets are invested in common stocks, fixed income, hedge funds, and the money market.

Money managers

Despite the adoption of a new

asset allocation plan, Villagomez said the Fund has not put the plan in effect, pending the final selection of its money managers.

The Fund currently has nine money managers. It plans to let go of six, with just three being retained.

"As soon as we finalize the selection, we will issue a notice to proceed and notice of cancellations to those money managers who will not be entertained or those whose services will be terminated," said Fund chair Sixto Igisomar.

He said "certain things" are holding back the final selection. He did not elaborate, saying the matter will be discussed in an executive session.

More withdrawals

With the Fund's current cash-flow condition, Villagomez expects drawdown—the liquidation and withdrawal of assets—to exceed the authorized ceiling of \$52.4 million by the end of the fiscal year in September.

"Our cash flow...hasn't been improving. So we're projecting drawdown to exceed the authorized budget," he said.

The Fund has an average monthly drawdown of around \$2.4 million.

The board had set the drawdown ceiling at \$54.2 million this fiscal year. Because of delays in the remittance of employer contributions by the central government, the Fund had estimated the drawdown shortfall to reach about \$800,000 by the end of September. Villagomez now says that amount could go up.

Torres inquires about Propst's PSS job

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) has asked Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan about the employment status of Ed Propst at the Public School System, an inquiry that Propst said is "absurd" and "malicious," among other things.

Propst is the PSS' Head Start's program manager, a post he has been holding for almost two years.

Torres, in a May 17 letter to the PSS commissioner, asked whether Propst is employed by PSS as

a full-time or part-time employee.

"I was told that whenever Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan is in the CNMI, Mr. Propst does not report to his workplace [Head Start Program Office] until the congressman leaves the CNMI... Please respond to my inquiry so I can clarify the matter to my constituent[s]," Torres told the PSS commissioner in his one-page letter.

Propst, when asked for comment, said Torres' inquiry is insulting, absurd, malicious, and a defamation of character.

"He [Torres] can't hide behind his legislative badge. Stan-

ley's inquiry is an attack on my character. To suggest that I meet with Kilili during work hours is completely malicious, insulting, and atrocious," Propst told *Saipan Tribune*.

Propst said he has been talking to an attorney on the possibility of taking Torres to court.

He said during days off from work and during lunch hours, he is free to do whatever he wants, just like everybody else.

"If Stanley likes, he can join me on Saturdays when Head Start staff, including myself, plant trees and volunteer our free time to beautify CNMI

Head Start centers. And if he would like a tour, I will be happy to show him around," Propst added.

Robert Schwalbach, the delegate's chief of staff, said yesterday that Propst is not an employee of the delegate's office.

Torres said as of yesterday afternoon, the PSS commissioner had yet to respond to his letter.

The PSS commissioner also could not be reached for comment as of yesterday afternoon.

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Legislature takes time out from controversies

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senators and House members took time out from debating casino gambling on Saipan, the budget and other issues as they, along with their employees and Legislative Bureau staffers, headed for the beach yesterday for a day of fun, picnic and teambuilding.

But most of all, the event at Laly Beach in Chalan Kanoa was meant for lawmakers to give thanks and show appreciation to their employees and their LB staffers.

"I don't know how we can function as a Legislature without our staff. This picnic we're having is not enough to show our appreciation to our staff," said Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

Of the 29 members of the House of Representatives and Senate, six didn't

show up at the event. Of the six, one was off-island.

LB staffers and lawmakers' employees got recognized for their years in service, and for their hard work and dedication.

"Fun awards" were also given, and these awards were decided by LB staffers and lawmakers' employees.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) recognized the hard work and loyalty of his long-time employee, Leticia U. Palacios, who has been with his office for 19 years.

Palacios, who started working at Manglona's office in January 1992 when she was still 21, said Manglona "has been a good boss and has been understanding."

Manglona, for his part, said Palacios is "like my daughter."

One of the longest serving employ-

ees at the CNMI Legislature is Peoris "Perry" Besong, 48. He has been working at the Legislature for a total of 21 years—10 years with the House leadership, and 11 years and counting as an LB staffer.

"I like everything in my job," said Besong, who served under the term of then House speaker Pedro Deleon Guerrero up to the term of then speaker and now minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan).

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said the appreciation day is also to recognize the Legislature's employees who helped raise funds for the victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP Reyes said she's satisfied with the outcome of the appreciation day, attended by 20 of 24 LB staffers. This

number is in addition to the 23 lawmakers present, as well as their employees.

"We built team concepts, and we're assisted by DPS, NMPASI and the Community Guidance Center for the 'challenge master', an activity to build trust, communication and team effectiveness," Reyes said.

She also recognized Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) for coming up with the idea of setting aside a day to recognize LB staffers and lawmakers' employees.

Geri Cruz, a Senate journal clerk, will have a one-month VIP parking, beside the parking space of the House

speaker for being named for having the "best attendance" among LB staffers.

Cruz has spent at least five years at the Legislature, starting as employee for lawmakers and then as an LB staffer.

She also bagged at least four other "fun awards," including "The Dolce & Gabbana Award," "The Fanatical Award," "The Doodle Pad Award," and "Exhibiting the Most Tantrums Award."

Lawmakers brought food and drinks, and did most of the food preparation.

The Legislature's office on Capital Hill was closed yesterday, an austerity Friday.

Mandatory 'minimum,' longer jail time for sex offenders pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A bill seeks to set a minimum mandatory jail time and increase by up to five years the current maximum imprisonment for those guilty of sexual assault and sexual abuse of minors.

There is currently no minimum mandatory penalty for some crimes involving sexual violence, but only have maximum sentences.

"This lack of a 'floor' allows for too wide a range in sentencing, and, at least in theory, can lead to very lenient sentences," Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said in his House Bill 17-193.

Villagomez's bill also seeks to strengthen provisions regarding sex crimes and domestic violence by establishing minimum mandatory sentences for sexual assault and sexual abuse of a minor.

It also seeks to increase the time-served component necessary for parole eligibility, and amends existing definitions to clarify provisions relating to sex crimes and domestic violence.

HB 17-193 is now with the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for review.

Under the bill, a person sentenced for crimes involving second, third or fourth-degree sexual assault shall not be eligible for parole until two-thirds of his minimum mandatory sentence has

been served.

In the legislation, sexual assault in the second degree shall be punishable by imprisonment of "not less than two years" and "not more than 15 years," instead of only up to 10 years under the current law. It retains the fine of not more than \$10,000.

The bill also proposes that sexual assault in the third degree is punishable by imprisonment of "not less than one year" and not more than five years, as well as a fine of not more than \$2,000 or both.

HB 17-193 proposes that sexual assault in the fourth degree shall be punishable by imprisonment "for not less than 45 days" and not more than one year, a fine of \$1,000, or both.

'Sexual abuse of minors'

Villagomez is proposing that sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree shall be punishable by imprisonment for "not less than two years" and not more than "15 years" instead of the current maximum of 10 years.

Sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, as proposed by the bill, shall be punishable by imprisonment for "not less than one year" and not more than five years, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both.

The lawmaker also proposes that sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree shall be punishable by a jail time of "not less than 45 days" and not more than a year, up to \$1,000 fine, or both.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), standing center, Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), standing right, Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), seated left, and House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), seated right, join their employees and Legislative Bureau staffers at the appreciation day for bureau staffers and lawmakers' employees at Laly Beach 4 in Chalan Kanoa yesterday. Manglona recognized his employee, Leticia U. Palacios, holding a certificate, for her loyalty and hard work in the 19 years she has been with his office.

ADAMS

From Page 1

ments section of the board meeting, questioned Adams' selection and appealed to the board to reconsider the job offer it gave Adams.

Adams has yet to accept or reject the job offer.

Both McPhetres and Rasa cited, among others, online articles stating that 98 percent of faculty members at the Owens University College gave a no-confidence vote against Adams' leadership in 2009.

Rasa also submitted an eight-page comment to the board, criticizing the regents for, among others, their alleged incapability to select the best candidate for NMC president.

Rasa told *Saipan Tribune* that the board must expand the process in hiring the next president in order to come up with the best candidate. "Are they not aware about this no-confidence vote against Dr. Adams?" he asked.

He claims that hiring decisions are often made with little input from those most affected by the hiring; and searches are poorly advertised and often stretched out for unreasonable times. Rasa also scored what he described as the lack of substantive communication that makes the college community and employees "unaware" of the issues besetting the college.

Board chair Lizama emphasized that the board is doing its fiduciary duty to the college and the students. He assured that the board is "not a rubber

stamp" as what many believe.

Since making the contract offer to Adams last week, the board has yet to get a response from the candidate. The board went into an executive session yesterday but no decision was announced after the meeting.

Dr. John Griffin, NMC faculty senate president and an honorary board member, said the regents are conducting "too many" executive sessions, which he said must only be for personnel issues. He recommended that the interim president and the senate and staff presidents be given an opportunity to participate in closed-door meetings.

Lizama pointed out, though, that only personnel matters are discussed at these executive sessions—at least under his leadership.

and his wife have been driving less and curbing trips into the city for their children's clothing and other supplies.

"We coordinate all of our trips into San Antonio," said Cobb, an associate athletic director at the University of Texas. "We don't ever go in anymore just for one particular errand. We wait until we've got two or three things to do."

The Associated Press-GfK Poll was conducted May 5-9 by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cellphone interviews with 1,001 adults nationwide and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.2 percentage points.

kept their Lexus sedan, which requires pricey premium gas.

"It's definitely a financial strain because now you have to reassess everything," said Polite, 32. "We don't go out as much. That \$20 that we could have used to go to a movie - now that money has been absorbed by the gas tank."

But analysts say relief is coming. Fred Rozell, retail pricing director at the Oil Price Information Service, expects the price at the pump to drop as much as 40 cents in the next four weeks.

Until that happens, Ross Cobb in Boerne, Texas, will still try to keep his highway miles down. Cobb says he

PRICES

From Page 1

driving they do and 48 percent changing vacation plans.

Since January, gas prices have shot up about 90 cents, with the national average for a gallon of regular this week at \$3.96.

Financial analyst Nicole Polite in Baltimore sold her Nissan Altima recently and is taking public transportation, opting for the bus, rails and walking to get to work. Gas prices were just too high, she says, so she and her boyfriend downsized to a one-car household. She says they

CHECKS

From Page 1

counts pretty much serving in and out within the general fund because of the lack of general fund cash. It's very minimal but the law allows the withdrawal of whatever fund is necessary from the general fund to pay for the rebates," he said in an interview yesterday.

John Camacho, 47, said refunds/rebates are important for him, especially these days when government paychecks are cut by 16 hours biweekly, prices of gasoline and utility rates are steadily increasing, and not getting their paychecks on time.

The Kagman resident, who is a father of three, said regardless of his wishes for the refunds to be released early this year, he knows that they won't be issued until later just like his delayed paychecks.

Inos, a former Finance secretary, said most of the 2010 tax returns have already been filed and are now being processed by the Department of Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation.

"Nothing gets paid at all, either rebate or refund or child tax, until all the returns have been processed," he

told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.

He said the refunds, rebates and child tax credit are all in one return.

"Right now we'd like to have things complete by, say middle of June, but staffing shortage will probably push that date back a little bit" he said, adding that it could be August or September.

Last year, the first batch of refund and rebate checks was issued on July 12, while the first batch of child tax credit checks, on Aug. 2.

Another government employee, a mother of four, said she always looks forward to her refund/rebate checks because she uses it to help buy school supplies before the opening of schools in August.

A Kagman resident who is also a government employee said the government should not be holding off taxpayers' checks.

"It's our money anyway," the mother of five said.

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer. It is different from the rebate, which is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision.

CUC fails to meet deadline to hire technical manager for oil

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has failed to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's deadline on Monday to hire a technical manager for oil, reportedly an extremely critical position because of CUC's numerous oil-related projects.

CUC legal counsel Deborah

E. Fisher disclosed, however, that the utilities agency has already started interviewing candidates for the position.

Fisher informed EPA, through the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Protection, and the U.S. District Court for the NMI, about CUC's failure to meet the deadline in a letter filed early this week in federal court.

Although CUC was able to

hire William Sword for the position last year, he resigned on Dec. 17, 2010. Pursuant to a stipulated order, CUC had 150 days to replace him.

In consultation with EPA, CUC advertised the vacancy in national venues, Fisher said, including websites of the American Public Power Association, National Association of Environmental Professionals, Association of

Environmental Professionals, and American Academy of Environmental Engineers. CUC also advertised the position on Saipan and in Guam, she said.

She said CUC became concerned in March when its advertisements generated only a small number of candidates, most of whom did not appear to be suitable for the position.

With the help of a profes-

sional employment consultant, Fisher said that CUC was able to assemble a list of seven candidates who, CUC believes, meet the stipulated order requirements for the technical manager for oil position.

EPA was given the list of candidates for review and, once it approves the list, CUC will be ready to move forward to the final, in person interview and hiring, Fisher said.

"CUC will not make any offer until it has received EPA's vetted list," she added.

CUC's oil-related projects include modifying a secondary containment; cleaning, testing, and repairing oil storage tanks; building a new oil pipeline; developing a response program with necessary equipment; and investigating and cleaning up oil contamination at its facilities.

DOI ADR conference highlights island mediation opportunities

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs concluded its two-day Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference in San Francisco at the State Bar of California.

The conference featured panelists and representatives from federal, state, and government agencies, attorney general offices, judiciaries, bar associations, and in-house counsel.

Opening remarks were delivered by Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta, who underscored the unique opportunity for island judiciaries and the legal community at both the local and federal levels to share experiences and best practices in resolving disputes.

California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye delivered the lunch keynote remarks, focusing on the State of California's judicial system, the importance and need for effective and robust dispute resolution centers as an

increasingly viable and cost-effective alternative to traditional litigation.

Vice President Alik L. Alik of the Federated States of Micronesia, on his first official visit to the United States since his reelection was also present. Alik discussed the similarities in ADR with integral components of Micronesian culture that seek to derive consensus and minimize confrontation when resolving disputes.

Distinguished insular area guests included:

American Samoa: Elvis Patea, Judge, District Court of American Samoa; Doug Fiaui, Assistant Counsel for the Governor of American Samoa

CNMI: Miguel S. Demapan, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Federated States of Micronesia: Aliksa B. Aliksa, Chief Justice, Kosrae Supreme Court, Federated States of Micronesia

Guam: John Thos. Brown,



Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta, left, talks with Guam Supreme Court Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido, third from right, and other participants of the Department of the Interior's two-day Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference in San Francisco.

author, Guam Procurement Process Primer; F. Philip Carbullido, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Guam; Robert J. Torres, Justice, Supreme Court of Guam; Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court of Guam; Pat

Wolff, founder, Inafa' Maolek Palau; Arthur Ngiraklsong, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau

Puerto Rico: Bruce McGivern, Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court for Puerto Rico; Jose R. Negron-Fernandez,

Chief Judge, La Rama Judicial de Puerto Rico

Virgin Islands: Curtis V. Gomez, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court of the Virgin Islands; Brenda J. Hollar, Judge, Superior Court of the Virgin Islands

Members of the local and federal California and international arbitration and mediation communities were also represented at the conference through the facilitation of the ADR organization, JAMS, and the law firm of Calvo, Fisher & Jacob. **(OIA)**

Bahá'is observe birth of Bahá'í Faith



The Shrine of the Báb sits on Mount Carmel in Haifa, Israel, the resting place of the religion's founders and the world headquarters of the Bahá'í Faith. It was built over a period of time from the early 1900s, with the 19 Bahá'í Garden Terraces added in 2001 that at night can be seen from space and the gold dome of the shrine recently refurbished. The shrine was listed in 2008 as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its "outstanding universal value" and joins a list of internationally recognized sites considered part of the cultural heritage of humanity. Photo is reprinted with permission of the Bahá'í International Community.

HAGATNA, Guam—On Monday, May 23, Baha'is around the world will celebrate the 167th anniversary of the birth of the Baha'i Faith.

The holy day marks the Declaration of the Bab, who in 1844 announced that He was a new divine Messenger, sent to herald a new age for humanity and to prepare the way for Baha'u'llah, the universal Messenger of God expected by people of all religions.

The house in Shiraz, Iran, where the Bab first made His announcement had been preserved as a Baha'i holy site, but in 1979—32 years ago—it was destroyed by a mob aided by Revolutionary Guards.

The Baha'i calendar dates from 1844, with the year 168 B.E. (Baha'i era) now under way.

The Declaration of the Bab is one of nine holy days during the year on which Baha'is suspend work. **(PR)**

NOTICE OF BULK TRANSFER (5 CMC DIVISION 6)

ANY AFFECTED CREDITOR IS
HEREBY NOTIFIED:

That a bulk transfer is intended and about to be made by PIC PRODUCTS (SAIPAN) CORPORATION ("Transferor") whose address is Post Office Box 2370, Saipan, MP 96950.

The bulk transfer is to be made to INTERPACIFIC RESORTS (SAIPAN) CORPORATION ("Transferee") whose address is P.O. Box 502370, Saipan, MP 96950.

The location of the property to be transferred is Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Beach Road, San Antonio, Saipan, MP 96950.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY TO BE TRANSFERRED

All assets of the Transferor used or held for use in Transferor's business of purchasing, importing, selling, exporting or trading and dealing in clothing and wearing apparel of all kinds and every description, operating stores and chains of stores and carrying on the business of wholesale and retail dealers of clothing and wearing apparel of all kinds and every description, including, without limitation, all inventory, machinery and equipment, personal property and personal property leases.

All properties herein mentioned are to be sold free of all liens and claims of all creditors.

The date on or after which the bulk transfer is to be consummated is June 1, 2011, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Beach Road, San Antonio, Saipan, MP 96950.

By: /s/ Robert C. Goldman
Director

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its **Special** meeting **Monday, May 23, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Actuary Report
- IV. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Election of Vice Chairman
 - B. BOT Bylaws
- V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VI. MISCELLANEOUS**
 - A. Announcements
 - B. Next Meeting
 - C. Adjournment

/s/ **SIXTO K. IGISOMAR**
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

DSK and France's code of silence

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times

France is reeling over the shocking arrest of Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the International Monetary Fund chief who had been considered a front-runner to replace the unpopular Nicolas Sarkozy as the nation's president, on attempted rape and other charges after he allegedly assaulted a maid in a \$3,000-a-night New York hotel suite.

Amid the allegations from Strauss-Kahn's supporters that he was framed, and the Gallic disdain for the American media's salacious treatment of a man who has not been convicted of any crime, the case is prompting a good deal of hand-wringing across the pond about the code of silence that protects French politicians from scrutiny into their private lives. It's a debate that's overdue.

We've long thought that attitudes in Europe toward political sex scandals were healthier than those in the United States. But the French may have taken it too far. Restrictive libel laws aimed at guarding the privacy of celebrities have thoroughly cowed the media there, making American-style investigations into a politician's personal background nearly unheard of. Many consider this system superior—after all, a prominent figure's extramarital affair should be between him and his wife, the theory goes, not fodder for public discussion—but it can also give the powerful the impression that no behavior is off-limits. There was ample evidence before this week that the thrice-married Strauss-Kahn was a serial womanizer if not a sexual predator, yet his multiple affairs and the allegations of sexual harassment against him were seldom mentioned by the French media.

Does it matter if a brilliant leader is also a sex addict? Not necessarily. The American media, like the French, tended to ignore such things half a century ago, and what the country didn't know about President John F. Kennedy's affairs didn't hurt it. But sometimes it does matter. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is Exhibit A in the case against ignoring a politician's personal life. His alleged adventures with an underage prostitute have not only embarrassed his nation, but the ongoing revelations about his sexual escapades and the criminal charges connected to them have made it difficult for him to continue governing. A politician's sexual misdeeds can reflect more than his attitudes toward marriage; they can indicate his respect for women and adherence to moral, ethical and legal codes.

Somewhere between the French embrace of satyriasis among political leaders and Americans' puritanical intolerance of sexual impropriety is a happy medium.



A free non-boring commencement speech for Obama

Does President Barack Obama need a new commencement speech—something that won't bore the brains out of the kids at those stuffy graduation ceremonies? Absolutely.

Obama stands accused of giving stuffy, cliché-ridden graduation speeches, the kind that cause students to zone out as they dream about where they'll party later.

So since Obama is from Chicago—and a White Sox fan—I hereby give him the rights to use my very own commencement speech.

It comes from Greece, from my family's ancestral village of Rizos, and is without a doubt the finest commencement speech of all time. I shared it in a column a few years ago, and today I'd like to offer it anew, as a gift to the president, because we can't have the leader of the Free World giving boring graduation speeches.

The title?

"The 40 Flies"

Yes, "The 40 Flies" is all yours, Mr. President.

And Michelle, too, because I hear her commencement speeches are just as bad. This one works for all audiences, from eighth-graders to college, and can be delivered by anyone who can read a teleprompter.

The idea came to me as I was reading an intriguing commencement story by RealClearPolitics White House correspondent Alexis Simendinger.

Simendinger pulled quotes from Obama's recent speech to graduates of Booker T. Washington High School in Memphis. And what boring quotes they were.

"I am confident about your futures," said Obama.

He also suggested, "Treat others as you would like to be treated."

And "Learn to be a better human being."

"ZZZZZZZZZZ," wrote Simendinger.

Exactly.

I am confident about your futures? Is he joking?

How can he be confident about their futures when he's trying to break the federal debt ceiling and borrow another trillion we don't have from China?

Trillions in debt isn't a future. It's servitude.

And that's where "The 40 Flies" comes in. These are real flies, not abstract flies. Politics and graduation ceremonies are abstract enough without idealized flies. So here's the story. Listen so you will see:

The son was a typical kid. The dad was a typical dad. They were very close and loved each other and were all but inseparable.

But then, like most parents and children, their relationship changed. It happened when the boy hit those challenging teenage years.

The father had warned his son. One day, he said, the boy would become as stubborn as a mule and as deaf as a post whenever the dad would speak, and things wouldn't change for years.

"Until then, I'll be absolutely stupid, embarrassing and boring," said the dad. "And the only time you'll even barely listen to what the heck I'm saying is when I'll hold the car keys in my hand."

By JOHN KASS

Chicago Tribune

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may send him email at jskass@tribune.com.



"Dad, please!" cried the son. "That'll never happen."

But then, of course, we all know it happened. The father did indeed rapidly lose intelligence. He spoke so strangely that the son couldn't understand him, unless the father dangled the car keys.

And the boy had also changed. He didn't merely want to hang around and watch sports on TV with his dad. The boy wanted to "go out" all the time.

So one day the father figured it was time for a talk. Not one of those boring adult-young person talks, with stupid platitudes like "I am confident about your future." Only politicians who think they're speaking to morons can talk such nonsense.

The father didn't want his son to suffer from the mistakes he had made. And what the father wanted was to give a real talk, to protect his son.

They walked to a coffee house in the town square. It was a fine afternoon, warm, and they sat in the shade of a mulberry tree. The tables were empty and they were alone except for a stray dog sleeping in the sun.

After they ordered coffee, the father turned and told his son the real story of life. Not that fake Idealized Parent Biography, but the real story, with all the beautiful and all the ugly.

There were no lies in this, no half-truths. He refused to protect himself. This story involved the girls he'd lied to on summer nights and the girls who'd lied to him; how he'd been hurt by trusting the wrong people and how a hard crust formed around his heart by not trusting. He talked of money and time wasted and how to put your mark on the world.

And he talked of how hell can be a door locked from within.

He talked about all of it.

Finally, his story over, the father looked up, exhausted. The sun was setting over that mulberry tree. And he felt relieved, having given his hard-won armor to his son.

"And so my boy," asked the father, "what do you think? Will what I just told you help you avoid the same mistakes in your own life?"

"What?" said the son, "Just as you started talking, I was watching that dog over there across the way, the stray dog sleeping in the sun."

"And I counted 40 flies that landed on that dog's behind. That's right, 40 flies. You believe it? Exactly 40. One would fly away, another would land. Forty. Amazing, isn't it?"

"Now, Dad, what was that stuff you were saying again? Dad?"

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Citizen children and life under the radar

By HIROKAZU YOSHIKAWA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

President Obama spoke Tuesday about the economic reasons for providing a pathway to citizenship for the nation's undocumented. This is clearly a polarizing issue, and there is much room for honest disagreement. But there's one fact we can't ignore: Undocumented immigrants in the U.S. include the parents of 4.5 million children who are legal citizens. What that means is that, on average, one or two children in every elementary school classroom in the country is coping with huge uncertainty about future family stability.

As the president noted in his speech, border enforcement is now stronger; the number of people illegally entering the U.S. is declining. But these millions of citizen children are here and will remain. It is in the interest of all of us to ensure that these children grow up to become productive citizens.

I recently published a study that followed hundreds of young children in immigrant families in order to examine how parents' undocumented status affects their children's development. Our findings are sobering.

Living under the radar creates enormous stress and necessitates terrible choices for these families. Many choose to keep their citizen children from taking advantage of programs and opportunities that would improve their development because parents fear that putting in applications could increase their risk of being deported and their families' risk of being ripped apart. This means that the children

of undocumented immigrants are less likely to receive the kind of high-quality, center-based child care that research has shown to improve early development. The results are lower cognitive and language skills that can be seen as early as 24 months.

For more than three years, my colleagues and I visited families in their homes, neighborhoods and workplaces from the time their children were born. We got to really know parents and children, and many of us feel personally obligated to speak out on their behalf.

Living in fear of deportation and family separation comes at a high price. Afraid to request raises at work, undocumented parents generally don't get them. Scared to complain, they endure terrible working conditions—more than a third of the parents in our study were paid less than the legal minimum wage. Reluctant to report their landlords to authorities, undocumented parents silently endure disasters like ceiling collapses that are never fixed. In many parts of the country, parents without papers are afraid even to let their children go outside to play.

This doesn't mean they are not good parents. The undocumented mothers and fathers in our study, despite working long hours, were just as likely to read books, tell stories and interact with their infants and toddlers as were their citizen-parent counterparts.

One father without papers, for example, had done deliveries for a deli for over 15 years. Like many of our undocumented dads, he worked 12-hour days, six days a week, with no vacation, sick days or overtime. Afraid to ask for a raise, he worked for less than the minimum wage. Despite these hardships, he was engaged in nurturing care, play and reading to his young son. Year after year, the undocumented mothers and fathers in our study showed high levels

of nurturing and social engagement with their babies.

Many of us know undocumented parents, and there are things we can do on behalf of their citizen children. First, we can inform parents about the opportunities and resources available for their children. Some of our field workers were the first people to tell undocumented parents about public libraries, pre-kindergarten programs and early-intervention services to identify and support children with disabilities. These are services that pay for themselves in returns to society.

Second, we can work with organizations in our communities to increase their capacity to serve low-income immigrant families. Many undocumented parents in our sample attended church regularly. Congregations should be sure they are providing information and resources about opportunities for children.

Finally, we can support policy change. In 2006, President George W. Bush proposed a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Now Obama has voiced ideas of his own about how to fix our broken immigration system to meet the nation's economic and security needs. We must add our voices to theirs.

The citizen children of undocumented parents are growing up among us. They will populate the workforce of tomorrow. And it is in the interest of all of us that they have the skills and motivation to become secure and high-achieving members of society.

Hirokazu Yoshikawa is the incoming academic dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the author Immigrants Raising Citizens: Undocumented Parents and Their Young Children. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Let us deport the bad guys

By LEE BACA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Consider the following case: In January, a local police agency arrested a man for driving with a suspended license. A subsequent fingerprint screening revealed that he was also a convicted felon illegally in the United States from Mexico. His record included three prior drug trafficking convictions and six deportations in 11 years.

Or consider this one: Recently, a 32-year-old man was booked into the Los Angeles County Jail on DUI charges. His fingerprints revealed not only that he was in the United States illegally but that he had previously been deported after his conviction for killing a child in 1997.

Both men were identified through the Secure Communities program. Under the program, local law enforcement agencies send the fingerprints of those they arrest to the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, where they are cross-checked against Department of Justice records to identify criminal aliens. The program enables law enforcement agencies to identify criminals who are here illegally and allows the federal government to target those who have committed serious crimes for deportation so they no longer pose a threat to our communities.

In Los Angeles County, the Sheriff's Department also participates with ICE in a program known as 287g. Since 2006, that program has identified more than 20,000 criminal illegal immigrants here.

In both programs, it is not the Sheriff's Department that instigates deportation proceedings: That is the role of the federal government. We provide information; ICE decides whether to act on it.

Both programs have drawn fire recently from groups concerned that they infringe on civil rights and that people arrested but not ultimately charged could end up being deported. The groups have expressed concern that the programs might lead to racial profiling or intimidate law-abiding residents who would be reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement to solve crimes. In San Francisco, the sheriff has vowed to release low-level offenders back into the community at the end of their terms, even if ICE has placed a hold on them.

These concerns are misplaced, and they put communities at risk. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, working in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors, implemented the 287g program years ago, and we were also early adopters of Secure Communities; we have not had significant problems.

We did have a serious problem, however, before implementing the programs. We had a growing number of criminal illegal immigrants who were taken into custody and eventually had to be released back onto our streets.

Crop loss and our warming planet

By PETER GOLDMARK
NEWSDAY

An article in the new issue of *Science* magazine will sound an alarm bell around the world—if we're alert enough to hear it.

It's by David Lobell, an assistant professor of environmental science at Stanford University, and two co-researchers, and it presents strong evidence that global warming has already negatively affected yields for wheat and corn over the last three decades.

The world's ability to produce enough food is central to our prospects for economic stability, peace and some modicum of fairness.

Many factors affect crop yields, among them quality of seed stock, efficient use of fertilizer and pesticides, and frequency of storms and other natural disturbances. The significance of this article is that looking across a period long enough to produce meaningful statistics, the authors maintain that the yield for wheat and corn has dropped below what statistical models suggest it would have been had there not been a measurable increase in temperature over that period.

Yes, there's that dreaded word "model" creeping in here. "Model" conjures up pictures of computers performing incomprehensible calculations that no layperson can understand. But Lobell and his

team employed widely used statistical techniques to hold constant the other forces that affect crop yield, and then used historical records to construct a 30-year path with no temperature increase. They compared that with actual crop yields and found that the real-world results were indeed lower—about 3.8 percent lower for corn and 5.5 percent for wheat. If this trend is confirmed and continues, that means one of the most feared potential effects of global warming has started to make itself felt: the food squeeze.

The theory of global warming predicts that the greatest temperature rises should occur at higher latitudes, both north and south. That's precisely the pattern shown in the crop yield losses: The country suffering the greatest loss was Russia, which grows its wheat at higher latitudes than most other countries. France, which is fairly far north, also showed significant loss. The United States, which grows its corn and wheat at latitudes farther south, showed almost no change at all.

The absolute amounts of grain tonnage lost are still relatively small, and their effect in annual harvest figures is completely masked by year-to-year variations due to drought, flooding, storms and other natural variations. But over decade-long periods, the trend is visible.

And the direction of these findings warrants our attention: First,

because we would expect this crop-loss trend to be exacerbated as temperatures continue to rise; and second, because the relationship between temperature and crop yield appears not to be linear. This means that future temperature increases may trigger exponentially steeper levels of crop loss than past increases.

The most insidious fact about global warming is that it happens so gradually. There is no single point-in-time crisis that galvanizes us into a concerted, emergency response. It is incremental—and relentless. And some of the changes it may unleash will be irreversible.

If rising temperatures cause portions of the permafrost in Siberia and Alaska to melt, methane—a strong global warming gas—will be released, perhaps in large amounts, and that will accelerate warming.

There's no way to put that genie back in the bottle once it has escaped.






Global warming is a ticking clock with no loud alarm to wake us up. Maybe that's why we seem to be sleeping through it.

Peter Goldmark, a former publisher of the International Herald Tribune, headed the climate program at the Environmental Defense Fund. He wrote this for Newsday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼77

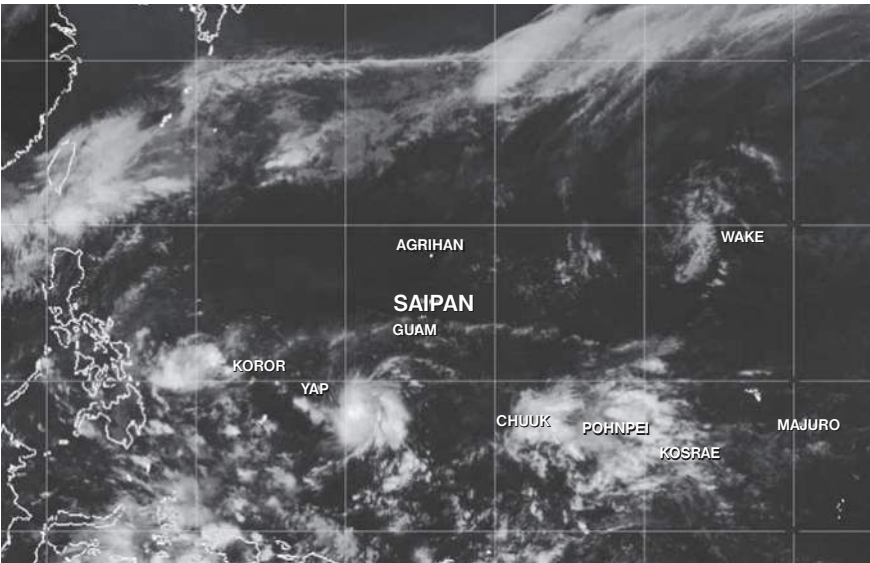
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲63 ▼56
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼57
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼78
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83 ▼74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲68 ▼50
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92 ▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲61 ▼53
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲74 ▼59
Osaka	Showers	▲74 ▼61
Paris	Showers	▲68 ▼47
Pusan	Showers	▲66 ▼57
Rome	Thundershowers	▲77 ▼60
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼53
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲77 ▼62
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼64

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:40 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
9:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
4:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
11:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line south of Japan runs from 25N144E through 22N130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found between 22N and 25N north of the shear line. A monsoon trough extends eastward from Mindanao to a developing circulation JTWC invest area 98W centered east of Yap near 9N141E. The trough then turns southeastward to end near 5N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation and trough are southeast of Yap between 6N and 10N from 140E to 144E and southeast of Yap between 3N and 5N from 142E to 145E and northwest of Koror between 10N and 12N from 130E to 133E. Convergent west winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the equator and 6N from 130E to 138E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers around Chuuk and over Pohnpei and Kosrae between 2N and 10N from 151E to 165E. An upper-level low is centered south of Minami Tori Shima near 18N157E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are west of Wake Island between 16N and 20N from 154E to 157E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:29 PM	8:06 AM
Saturday	10:19 PM	9:04 AM
Sunday	11:04 PM	10:00 AM
Monday	11:45 PM	10:53 AM
Tuesday	12:23 AM	12:30 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
				OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6				via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
				OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC 			
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
Santa Soledad Mission Parish Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
Saint Jude Parish Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
San Antonio Parish Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro Wednesday:6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991 San Roque Parish Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English			
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
San Vicente Parish Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community masss), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
Santa Remedios Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
PROTESTANT 			
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org			
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions			
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)			
Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
Immanuel United Methodist Church Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620			
Marianas Bible Fellowship Center Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm			
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
First Baptist Church Koblerville Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Sunday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			
Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call <i>Saipan Tribune</i> at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.			

Business

Ex-IMF chief gets \$1M bail in NYC sex assault case

NEW YORK (AP)—Over the objections of prosecutors, a judge agreed Thursday to free former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn from jail on \$1 million bail on the condition he be confined to a New York apartment under armed guard while he awaits trial on attempted-rape charges.

The 62-year-old French banker and diplomat briefly wore an expression of relief after Supreme Court Justice Michael J. Obus announced his decision in a packed courtroom. Later, Strauss-Kahn blew a kiss toward his wife.

The ruling didn't immediately free Strauss-Kahn from the city's bleak Rikers Island jail. Authorities need time to review the security arrangements involved in his house arrest, which lawyers said would be at an apartment rented by his wife.

The lawyer who represented Strauss-Kahn at the hearing, William Taylor, called the ruling "a great relief for the family."

"He's going back to Rikers tonight and we expect him to be released tomorrow," he said.

Strauss-Kahn will not only have to post the full \$1 million but will also have to take out a \$5 million insurance bond. A trial date was not immediately set.

The banker is accused of attacking a 32-year-old housekeeper Saturday at his \$3,000-a-night

hotel suite. The West African immigrant told police that he chased her down a hallway, forced her to perform oral sex and tried to remove her stockings.

He spent nearly a week behind bars—most of that at Rikers, after a judge denied him bail on Monday. At that hearing, prosecutors warned that Strauss-Kahn might flee to France and escape justice in the U.S. like film director Roman Polanski.

This time, Strauss-Kahn went before a different judge, and also offered to place himself under house arrest. Obus added the requirement that he post the \$5 million insurance.

The bail decision came less than a day after Strauss-Kahn resigned as managing director of the International Monetary Fund, the powerful organization that makes emergency loans to countries in financial crisis.

In his resignation letter, he denied the allegations against him but said he would quit in order to "protect this institution which I have served with honor and devotion" and to "devote all my strength, all my time and all my energy to proving my innocence."

Also Thursday, prosecutors announced that Strauss-Kahn had been formally indicted on the sex charges. Without the indictment, authorities would have been unable to detain him for longer than a week.

Fewer people applied for unemployment benefits

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of people applying for unemployment benefits fell sharply for the second straight week, suggesting the job market is slowly recovering.

Applications for benefits dropped 29,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 409,000, the Labor Department said.

The four-week average, a less volatile measure, rose slightly to 439,000. It was the sixth straight increase.

The declines come after applications spiked last month to an eight-month high of 474,000. The increase was largely because of temporary factors. Still, it lifted applications nearly 100,000 higher than February's three-year low of 375,000—a level typically consistent with sustainable job growth.

Weekly applications peaked during the recession at 659,000.

Economists said they were encouraged to see applications declining again. But many said they would feel more optimistic about the job market when applications fall below 400,000.

"It will likely take several weeks before this average falls back below 400,000 and

there is a risk that flooding in the Mississippi area could distort the claims data in the next one or two reports," said John Ryding, an economist at RDQ Economics.

Labor Department analysts said the jump two weeks ago was largely the result of an unexpected increase in layoffs at New York schools. More of the state's school systems closed for spring break than expected. That boosted temporary layoffs among school bus drivers, cafeteria workers and other hourly employees. A new extended benefits program in Oregon also caused applications to rise.

This week, the department said tornadoes that devastated parts of Alabama in late April caused applications in that state to jump by nearly 6,000.

Still, job growth has been strong this year. Businesses have added a net total of more than 250,000 jobs per month, on average, in the past three months. That's the fastest hiring spree in five years. The unemployment rate has dropped nearly a full percentage point in the past five months, though it remains very high at 9 percent.

Nation

Prodding Israel, Obama embraces Palestine borders

WASHINGTON (AP)—Exasperated by stalled Middle East peace talks in a season of tumultuous change, President Barack Obama jolted close ally Israel Thursday by embracing the Palestinians' terms for drawing the borders of their new nation next door. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel rejected the idea as "indefensible" on the eve of his vital White House

meeting with Obama.

The U.S. president said that an independent Palestine should be based on 1967 borders—before the Six Day War in which Israel occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza—as adjusted by possible land swaps agreed upon by both sides. He said Israel can never live in true peace as a Jewish state if it insists on "per-

manent occupation."

Obama's effort to salvage a peace effort that is in shambles was a major change in tactics for a president running out of patience and reasons to be subtle. The Israeli-Palestinian stalemate has remained immune to the popular uprisings and historic drives for freedom that have swept much of the region. He pushed both sides to ac-

cept his starting point—borders for Palestine, security for Israel—and get back to solving a deadlock "that has grinded on and on and on."

In a sweeping review of recent uprisings and authoritarian crackdowns across the Arab world, Obama was also unsparing in his words for the Palestinian leadership, repudiating its pursuit of unilateral statehood through the United Nations and questioning its alliance with a Hamas faction bent on Israel's destruction.

"At a time when the people of the Middle East and North Af-

rica are casting off the burdens of the past, the drive for a lasting peace that ends the conflict and resolves all claims is more urgent than ever," Obama said, playing the rapid change of the past six months against a stand-off that has stymied the Mideast for decades.

More broadly, before a polite diplomatic audience at the State Department, Obama sought to clarify the U.S. role toward a part of the world undergoing a transformation. He implored the American people to see that it is worth devoting U.S. might and money to help

stabilize a dangerous region and help people fighting for freedom.

"There must be no doubt that the United States of America welcomes change that advances self-determination and opportunity," the president said. "Yes, there will be perils that accompany this moment of promise. But after decades of accepting the world as it is in the region, we have a chance to pursue the world as it should be."

It was Obama's explicit endorsement of the 1967 borders that changed the dynamic.

Obama and the Mideast, North Africa

Highlights of new approach laid out by President Barack Obama toward the Mideast and North Africa emphasizing democracy, development, peace and security:



U.S. position on the 'Arab Spring' nations

Bahrain Committed to Bahrain's security; monarchy and opposition should engage in dialogue

Egypt Supports orderly, peaceful, legitimate transition to a representative government committed to democratic principles; working with other countries to stabilize Egypt's economy during transition

Jordan Committed to its long-time partnership with this regional leader; urges Jordan to advance meaningful reforms; U.S.

provides economic aid, security assistance

Libya Led an international effort to protect the Libyan people with no-fly zone; Col. Moammar Gadhafi has lost confidence of the people and should go; U.S. is working with opposition council

Morocco Supports Morocco's efforts to promote democracy through constitutional, judicial, political reforms

Syria Condemns the government's murder, mass arrest of its people; stands by the Syrian

people; President Assad can lead transition to democracy, or step aside

Tunisia Supports the Tunisian people as they hold democratic elections, craft a new constitution, implement reform

Yemen Supports aspirations of the Yemeni people for a more stable, unified, prosperous nation; committed to assisting Yemen to remove the security threat from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula; supports peaceful transfer of power that begins immediately



Key U.S. assistance

• Cancel about \$1 billion of Egypt's debt; reinvest funds in economy

• Guarantee up to \$1 billion in borrowing for Egypt through Overseas Private Investment Corp.

• Launch new trade partnerships; encourage global financial aid for Tunisia, Egypt

• Support economic modernization, curb corruption

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Romney: Obama 'threw Israel under the bus'

HANOVER, N.H. (AP)—Republicans looking to unseat President Barack Obama charged Thursday that he undermined the sensitive and delicate negotiations for Middle East peace with his outline for resumed talks between Israelis and Palestinians.

Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman said Obama, whom he served as U.S. ambassador to China until last month, undercut an opportunity for Israelis and Palestinians to build trust. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney said Obama "threw Israel under the bus" and handed the Palestinians a victory even before negotiations between the parties could resume. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich called it "the most dangerous speech ever made by an American president for the survival of Israel."

Foreign policy has hardly been the center of the debate among the still-forming GOP presidential field. Instead, the candidates and potential candidates have kept their focus—like the country's—on domestic issues that are weighing on voters and their pocketbooks. Obama's speech



In an April 29, 2011 file photo Possible 2012 presidential hopeful, former Massachusetts Republican Gov. Mitt Romney speaks during a dinner sponsored by Americans for Prosperity in Manchester, N.H.

provided one of the first opportunities for Republicans to assert their foreign policy differences with Obama and his Democratic administration.

Obama endorsed Palestinians' demands for the borders of its future state based on 1967 borders—before the Six Day War in which Israel occupied East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. That was a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy.

Campaigning here in the state that hosts the first presi-

dential nominating primary, Huntsman also said the United States should respect Israel and work to foster trust between Israelis and Palestinians.

"If we respect and recognize Israel as the ally that it is, we probably ought to listen to what they think is best," said Huntsman, who served in the administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush before surprising his party and serving Obama, a Democrat.

Mississippi crests in Vicksburg, claims 1st life

VICKSBURG, Miss. (AP)—The Mississippi River crested at more than 14 feet above flood stage in Vicksburg on Thursday, a slightly lower than expected level that eased worries about water potentially spilling over a nearby levee and inundating thousands more acres of farmland.

But officials warned that the flood was by no means over. The river was expected to stay at its crest for several days before beginning a long, slow retreat. It could remain above flood stage until mid-June.

"The crest is by no means the end of it," said Col. Jeffrey R. Eckstein, commander of the Army Corps of Engineers' Vicksburg District.

In one of the city's hardest-hit areas, mechanic Chris Lynn has paddled a small aluminum boat across his flooded property every day to mark the water line on his shop. Water has crept close to his mobile home, though it has yet to go in. "My son died in a car accident a few months ago, so this ain't nothing. But to a lot

of people, it is," he said.

Authorities had been worried for days that water might spill over the Yazoo Backwater Levee north of Vicksburg. But because the water was not expected to rise any higher, they did not expect to evacuate any more people. Some 2,000 city residents have already been forced from their homes.

Also Thursday, authorities reported the first person to die in Mississippi floodwaters since the mighty river began climbing out its banks last month in the Midwest—a 69-year-old man who apparently collapsed in the high water. At least eight deaths in Arkansas have been attributed to flooding, but all of those happened in flash floods or Mississippi tributaries.

Walter Cook was pulled from the water Tuesday by two firefighters on boat patrol in downtown Vicksburg.

David Day, who owns a restaurant near Cook's home, said Cook—a frequent customer—came in Tuesday asking for a lighter.

Day said he gave Cook a

lighter and thought he was going home, but instead Cook went deeper into the water, which soon reached up to his waist. Day said he yelled a warning to Cook, but he kept going.

Soon after, Cook collapsed. He was pronounced dead Thursday at a hospital.

In Port Gibson, a community that Civil War Gen. Ulysses S. Grant reportedly said was "too beautiful to burn," few people could have been happier than Eddie Simmons to hear about the crest just north in Vicksburg.

Simmons, a retired logger, is recovering from hip-replacement surgery and can barely leave his bed. He has stayed in his home despite water swamping his front yard and creeping beneath his house. Visitors have to use a back door to get in because of the high water.

Simmons was confident his house would survive now that the river had done its worst.

"It's God's work. You've got to deal with him. You can run to high ground, but if God wants to come there, he can come there. You might as well stay put."

Family finds \$45,000 in new home—then returns it

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—When Josh Ferrin closed on his family's first home, he never thought he'd make the discovery of a lifetime—then give it back.

Ferrin picked up the keys earlier this week and decided to check out the house in the Salt Lake City suburb of Bountiful. He was excited to finally have a place his family could call their own.

As he walked into the garage, a piece of cloth that hung to an attic door caught his eye. He opened the hatch and climbed up the ladder, then pulled out a metal box that looked like a World War II ammunition case.

"I freaked out, locked it my car, and called my wife to tell her she wouldn't believe what

I had found," said Ferrin, who works as an artist for the Deseret News in Salt Lake City.

Then he found seven more boxes, all stuffed full with tightly wound rolls of cash bundled together with twine—more than \$40,000.

Ferrin quickly took the boxes to his parent's house to count. Along with his wife and children, they spread out thousands of bills on a table, separating the bundles one by one. They stopped counting at \$40,000, but estimated there was at least \$5,000 more on the table.

Ferrin thought about how such a large sum of money could go a long way, pay bills, buy things he never thought he could afford.

"I'm not perfect, and I wish I could say there was never any doubt in my mind. We knew we had to give it back, but it doesn't mean I didn't think about our car in need of repairs, how we would love to adopt a child and aren't able to do that right now, or fix up our outdated house that we just bought," Ferrin said. "But the money wasn't ours to keep and I don't believe you get a chance very often to do something radically honest, to do something ridiculously awesome for someone else and that is a lesson I hope to teach to my children." He thought about the home's previous owner, Arnold Bangert, who died in November and left the house to his children.

Asia

Report: President of Japan's TEPCO resigning

TOKYO (AP)—The utility behind the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl is almost certain to report massive losses Friday, as expectations grow for its president to step down in disgrace.

Japanese media reports said Tokyo Electric Power Co. President Masataka Shimizu will resign to take responsibility for the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Dai-ichi power complex in northeastern Japan.

It is common for executives at major Japanese companies to resign for even smaller scandals and other fiascos. It has been almost taken for granted here that Shimizu would eventually have to resign.

TEPCO company spokeswoman Ryoko Sakai declined to confirm the reports, which cited no sources.

Three reactors at Fukushima Dai-ichi went into meltdown after a March 11 earthquake triggered a tsunami that destroyed the plant's cooling systems. Efforts to stop leaking radiation and get the reactors under control have been a perilous struggle and are expected to continue into next year.

The nationally circulated Yomiuri newspaper said in its Friday

edition that TEPCO will rack up a loss of 1.5 trillion yen (\$18 billion) for the fiscal year ended March 2011. Kyodo News agency put TEPCO's annual loss at 1.2 trillion yen (\$14.7 billion).

TEPCO had a profit of nearly 134 billion yen the previous fiscal year.

Overall losses from the disaster are expected to be far bigger, including compensation for the thousands of people forced to evacuate from their homes around Fukushima Dai-ichi, and businesses such as farms that say products were damaged by radiation.

TEPCO must also shoulder the costs of resolving the problems at the reactors, as well as restarting other kinds of power plants, which aren't nuclear, to make up for the electricity shortfall.

The government has been studying possible bailouts, including using contributions from other utilities and taxpayer money to help TEPCO deal with the towering costs.

TEPCO has been criticized for being unprepared for the tsunami despite some scientific evidence that earthquake-prone Japan

could be hit with a wave of that size. It has also been criticized for being slow and lacking transparency in disclosing information about the plant's problems.

Officials told reporters repeatedly the fuel cores at the damaged plant were relatively intact despite explosions at four reactors. Only recently, did they acknowledge the meltdowns.

Power shortages are another challenge for the world's third largest economy besides the destruction over stretches of its Pacific coast. The March disasters have left 24,000 people dead or missing.

Japanese automakers said Thursday they will produce vehicles over the weekend and take Thursday and Friday off to even out power use during the peak months of July, August and September to avert blackouts.

The Japanese economy shrank at a worse-than-expected annualized rate of 3.7 percent from January-March, marking the second straight quarter of negative growth, as factory production and exports plunged, according to government data released Thursday.

SKorean media: NKorean leader's son visits China

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's son and heir apparent is visiting China, his first known trip to the North's main ally since his debut last year as leader-in-waiting, South Korean media reported Friday.

Kim Jong Un, the youngest son of the North's leader, arrived in the city of Tumen in northeast China on Friday, the news reports said. Kim's reported trip is widely seen as an attempt to secure crucial support for his succession as the North faces food shortages and international pressure to abandon its nuclear weapons programs.

Yonhap News Agency, citing an unnamed source in Tumen, said security was tight in the border city, with more police than usual. In Mudanjiang, a northeastern Chinese city near the North Korean border that the senior Kim visited last year,

security was high along the streets, a Mr. Liu, director of the main office of the city's Beishan Park, told The Associated Press.

Liu, who only gave his surname, said provincial leaders converged Thursday night at a government guesthouse known locally as the VIP Building, where visiting dignitaries are entertained.

South Korea's mass-circulation Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported that Jang Song Thae, Kim Jong Il's brother-in-law and a core member of his inner circle, accompanied Kim Jong Un.

Officials at South Korea's Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Unification said they were trying to confirm the trip.

Kim Jong Il visited China in August last year, a trip that reportedly included a meeting with China's top leader and an appeal for diplomatic and financial support for the younger

Kim's succession. Kim Jong Un reportedly accompanied his father on the trip.

China's Foreign Ministry and the Communist Party leadership office that handles relations with North Korea told AP that they didn't know anything about a Kim Jong Un visit. In the past, the Chinese government has only confirmed visits by Kim's father once he has returned home.

Kim Jong Un, believed to be in his 20s, made his public debut in September last year after being promoted to four-star general and receiving the important position of vice chairman of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea's central military commission.

Kim's reported trip Friday comes as the United States and other countries accuse the North of pushing ahead with its nuclear programs even as its people go hungry.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwanese general indicted for China spying
TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Military prosecutors in Taiwan say they have indicted a major general on charges of providing military secrets to China. Lo Hsien-che has been in detention since February. His case is viewed as one of the most serious security breaches in modern Taiwanese history. Military prosecutors indicted Lo on Friday and said they will seek a sentence of life in prison. News reports say Lo leaked information about an integrated command, communications and control network

that Taiwan is establishing with U.S. infrastructure.

Admiral: US open to military studying in China
SINGAPORE (AP)—The U.S. military would consider sending officers and cadets to China on study exchange programs if relations between the two countries improve, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet said Thursday. Washington is seeking to improve its relationship with the Chinese military, and an officer exchange program would provide a better understanding of Chinese culture, goals and thoughts, Adm.

Patrick Walsh said.

Police: Bomb in Pakistan hits foreigners' vehicle
PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Police say a roadside bomb has hit a vehicle carrying foreigners in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar. A passer-by died and some people in the vehicle were wounded in Friday's attack. Senior police official Shafi Ullah says the exact nationalities and identities of the people in the vehicle was not immediately clear. Peshawar has been frequently targeted in attacks by Taliban and al-Qaida militants.

World

Europe demands to name next IMF head, US hesitates

BRUSSELS (AP)—European officials closed ranks Thursday to demand that the IMF's next leader be one of their own, someone with the political savvy to handle the continent's relentless debt crisis, but the U.S. balked at offering its immediate support.

Frenchman Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who has been widely praised for his leadership of the International Monetary Fund and its involvement in solving Europe's woes, resigned Wednesday to devote "all his energy" to fighting sexual assault charges in New York.

The move heated up simmering debate over his successor, with Europe staking its traditional claim to the post even as fast-growing nations like China and Brazil say it's time to break that monopoly and seek an IMF chief from a developing nation. The IMF is empowered to direct billions of dollars to stabilize the global economy.

In Washington, where the IMF is based, U.S. Treasury chief Timothy Geithner said "We want to see an open process that leads to a prompt succession."

Geithner's statement was



France's Finance and Economy Minister Christine Lagarde visits a Parisian supermarket and goods retailer in Paris Thursday May 19, 2011.

ambiguous and leaves open the possibility that the U.S., which has a major say in determining who will head the fund, could support a candidate from either group. Some analysts said the U.S. government will make its preference clearer behind the scenes while keeping a more impartial stance in public.

Hours after Strauss-Kahn's resignation, everyone from the European Commission to the German chancellor to the French finance minister—herself a potential candidate—said the replacement should come from Europe. Not because of

any tradition, they insisted, but because intimate knowledge of Europe's debt crisis should be a critical element of any candidate's portfolio.

"From a European point of view, it is essential that the appointment will be merit-based, where competence and economic and political experience play the key role," said Olli Rehn, European Commissioner for Monetary and Economic Affairs. "And in this current juncture it is a merit if the person has quite solid knowledge of the European economy and decision making."

Egypt says Obama speech will help Palestinians

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—President Barack Obama's backing of a key Palestinian demand on the borders of its future state will help win U.N. recognition of a Palestinian state, Egypt's U.N. ambassador said Thursday.

Maged Abdelaziz linked Obama's support for the borders that existed before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war to the Palestinian campaign to get two-thirds of the U.N. General Assembly—at least 128 of its 192 member states—to recognize Palestine as a state by September. He predicted the Palestinians would get support from at least 130 nations, which would be "a milestone,"

and would keep pursuing additional recognitions.

But for a newly created Palestine to become a member of the United Nations, Abdelaziz said, it must get support from the Security Council, where the United States, Israel's closest ally, has veto power.

"If they put a resolution in the General Assembly requesting the Security Council to recognize the state of Palestine and this resolution passes ... with 170 or 180 votes, I'm sure that this is going to put a lot of moral pressure on the Security Council, and particularly on the United States, in order not to veto," Abdelaziz told a group of reporters.

He said he didn't know whether the Palestinians will push for a resolution in September because Palestinian leaders are still discussing what to do.

A resolution would be purely symbolic—not legally binding like Security Council resolutions—but it would have an impact, Abdelaziz said.

"I think the Palestinian situation would be much stronger if they got the two-thirds majority required for the General Assembly—not to use it in the General Assembly, but use it as a card to put more emphasis on their issue in the Security Council in order to have the Security Council also act," he said.

Yemen leader says he'll quit, opponents doubt

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh promised Thursday to sign a deal that would end his decades-long rule, a spokesman said, while President Obama called on the embattled leader to transfer power.

Yemen's opposition rejected Saleh's promise, accusing the embattled leader of stalling. Saleh has rejected the agreement before—most recently 24 hours before his latest promise to sign.

Yemen is reeling from three months of street protests demanding Saleh's ouster. The United States, which until recently considered Saleh an ally in fighting Yemen's active al-Qaida branch, has backed

away from the leader, calling on him to stand down.

In his speech Thursday on American policy in the Arab world, Obama referred to Yemen directly. He said, "President Saleh needs to follow through on his commitment to transfer power."

Tens of thousands of Yemenis watched the speech on a giant screen in the public square in the capital of Sanaa that has been the focus of the protest movement.

When Obama mentioned Yemen, people chanted, "The people want to topple the regime"—the rallying cry made famous in the Tunisian and Egyptian uprisings that inspired the protests in Yemen

and elsewhere.

Activist Bashir Mohammed said the speech told repressive regimes that revolutions will determine the future.

"The traditional regimes must learn the lessons of history and work for change or leave," he said.

The most recent effort to end the Yemen's political crisis appeared to collapse Wednesday. The Gulf Cooperation Council has sought to broker an agreement, backed by Washington, for Saleh to leave power in exchange for immunity from prosecution.

But Saleh refused, prompting the coalition's head, Abdul-Latif al-Zayyani, to leave Yemen.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, May 21, 2011

PH real estate firm launches Saipan office

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Dreaming about having the perfect place to call home? The process of selecting and buying the ideal house that suits one's needs has become exceedingly difficult due to the array of residential properties for sale in the market today. The matter is further complicated when one plans to buy a home in the Philippines due to the distance.

That is a problem that Megaworld International plans to solve for Filipinos in the Commonwealth. Buying a home in the Philippines can now be simple and trouble-free with the launching of Megaworld International's Saipan Satellite Office located at Multiline Supply along Middle Road.

Potential home buyers and real estate investors attended the open house hosted by Megaworld International Saipan last May 14 at the Azucena Room of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

The Saipan office is the 65th and latest satellite office to be opened by Megaworld International, the overseas division of Megaworld Corporation, which



Megaworld International AVP for International Sales Erwin M. De Guzman, fourth from left, is flanked by the staff of Megaworld's Saipan Satellite Office during their open house at Fiesta Resort & Spa last May 14.

is a premier real estate developer in the Philippines.

Manila-based executive Erwin M. De Guzman, Megaworld International AVP for International Sales, flew to Saipan to present the company's wide range of options for brand-new and upcoming residential development projects.

He was also in Guam on May 7 to launch Megaworld International's Guam Office, which is

their 64th satellite office.

De Guzman, in an interview, said having a satellite office on Saipan will provide prospective house and condominium buyers a closer look at their various residential projects.

"Our satellite offices are manned by locals. That's what we want, to localize Megaworld and facilitate the process for them," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

De Guzman said Megaworld

International, at this time, has 35 ongoing house and condominium development projects all over Metro Manila and in the greater Manila area.

"We have condominium units that are studio types, one-, two-, or three-bedroom units. We also have different types of houses. We cater to all market segments," he said.

Saturday's event was a great success, according to De Guzman.

"It's actually one of the better turnouts we had. We're quite happy with our initial sales and the interest we're getting from the community," he added.

The best part of the event, De Guzman said, was that potential homeowners need not worry about down payments and interest rates.

"What we highlighted here is that we don't have down payments and interest rates. Buyers can pay as low as \$120 per month for condominiums and \$200 a month for house and lot units. It's really very affordable," said the Megaworld executive, adding that they also offer in-house financing options.

De Guzman noted, however, that home buyers have to sign up and pay the reservation fee, which varies depending on the total cost of the property to be purchased.

He said that another good thing for Saipan buyers is that the Saipan Satellite Office will accept local and third-party checks for monthly payments "so that they don't have to pay costly money transfer fees."

Aware of the uncertainty of

status among nonresident workers in the CNMI, De Guzman maintained that Megaworld International is keen to establish long-term commitment with the islands.

"We want permanent presence on island today and the years to come. In fact, we'll have these roadshows and open house events a regular activity. We certainly want our presence felt," he said.

Katty Uy of Multiline Supply echoed this, saying that Megaworld International promotes investing the Filipino workers' hard-earned money.

"We're offering them properties that are very affordable and have prime locations. In the end, they will see the fruits of their labor," she said.

Uy, who has bought condominium units herself, said that Megaworld's condominium units are strategically located. "They make very good investments," she added.

Visit Megaworld International Saipan Satellite Office at Multiline Supply along Middle Road across from First Hawaiian Bank for inquiries or call 234-5441 or 5473.

UFO gears up for 2011 'Pistang Pinoy' to mark Philippine Independence Day

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Preparations have kicked off for the celebration of the 113th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence.

Bong Malasarte, president of the United Filipino Organization, said they are now working on this year's edition of the 2012 *Pistang Pinoy* (Filipino Festival), which will be held on June 12, a Sunday.

"We are now busy organizing our next big event, which is *Pistang Pinoy*," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We're working on logistics and coordinating with all

member organizations."

Despite the economic recession in the Commonwealth, Malasarte said the umbrella organization of Filipino groups on Saipan is working hard so that the public can expect a "more fun" celebration this year.

"We know that times are tough for everyone but we are taking on a positive approach so we can put on a great show, especially for the Filipino community," he said.

This year's festivities, Malasarte said, will have the standard program of activities that features cultural performances and presentations from various groups as well as a 3-on-3 basketball game.

Malasarte disclosed that they are thinking of linking up with a group of Filipino cockfighters on island to possibly hold a cockfight in line with the Independence Day celebration.

"In the Philippines, cockfights are customary during fiestas so we thought it's a possibility here. We'll try to make it happen and we're already planning to get in touch with the group of Filipino cockfighters here," he said.

Malasarte noted, however, that they have yet to finalize the venue, souvenir book, and program for the event. "We will announce it as soon as we get confirmation in the coming days."

The UFO president said they are also working with the Philippine Consulate General for the traditional flag-raising ceremony, which sets off the Independence Day celebration.

Malasarte said they welcome all interested performers, basketball players and vendors as well as sponsors and donors for this year's *Pistang Pinoy*.

For more information on the program, contact Minda Castro at 989-0604 or Olive Yana at 285-7893. For the 3-on-3 game, call Bong Malasarte at 287-5525. For sponsorships, call Boy Ching at 287-6046 or overall committee chair Nel Atalig at 789-7805.

deemed to have the most immediate need of attention.

He thanked all their church members, sponsors and volunteers who make the outreach a success each time.

The village-to-village outreach had been conducted at the Tanapag Basketball Court in February, Garapan Basketball Court in March, and in Gualo Rai last month.

For more information, call Pastor Claire Javillonar at 235-1656 or text 789-7566.

Medical mission to head for Chalan Kanoa

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Next stop: Chalan Kanoa Basketball Court.

This will be the venue for the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch's fourth village-to-village medical mission slated for May 22.

Church spokesperson Ronnie Doca said that during the medical mission, held from 4pm to

7pm, volunteers will provide various services such as height and weight measurement, blood sugar and blood pressure check-ups, vision screening, reflexology, haircut, facial massage, and spiritual counseling.

"The village-to-village outreach is part of our church's global mission to provide public service to the community through the Dalaw Kalinga (Care Visit) Foundation," he

told *Saipan Tribune*.

Doca said they expect that since Chalan Kanoa is a big residential district, they expect a lot of community members to show up and avail of the free services.

"We really hope to see the community on Sunday. This outreach is for them," he added.

Doca said they will, once again, present \$150 worth of certificates from Marianas Eye Institute to the individual

Filipino pastry experts reap gold at HK culinary contest

The Pastry Alliance of the Philippines impressed an international panel of judges by setting a record of wins with five golds, two bronzes and a team silver at the recently concluded Hong Kong International Culinary Classic.

Held May 11-14 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center in conjunction with Hofex, the HKICC was a multi-skill event participated in by delegations from over 12 countries.

Benjie Lanas of Cebu carved "Joker," a colorful jester, out of white chocolate and bagged PAP's first gold. Rizalino Manas' bronze-winning "Linger" was a collage of geckos, butterflies and birds-of-paradise pulled out of sugar.

Batangas native Bryan Dimayuga executed an all-white wedding cake called "Ivory" that scored very high in technical skill, eventually capturing a gold.

The only two gold medals in the Under 25 Plated Desserts Category both went to PAP:

for Clyden San Pedro's visual feast of passion fruit-coconut-mango "Metamorphosis" and chocolate-rose-hazelnut "Kaleidoscope"; and Michael Aspiras' refreshing layers of "Corn Field" and "Lemon Garden," which were just three points shy of distinction.

Nikki Misa's focused live execution of her "Passionfruit" in Earl Grey Mousse won her a gold in the Chocolate Fragrant Tea Cake category.

Likewise, Gen Oliva prepared two desserts live based on the secret ingredient guava for "Fantasy Table," adding another bronze to the PAP harvest.

The main pastry event that was Live Bakery required Bubbles Cruz-Lerias, Maricar Salvador, and Roel Vargas to prepare 15 different types and shapes of bread, plus a bread showpiece within nine hours. Their ingenious and delicious Ensaymada con Prosciutto, Back to The (Ube) Roots, Duck in a Box and Pili Citrus Twist won the team Silver. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

BSP slashes remittance growth forecast for 2011

By DORIS C. DUMLAO,
MICHELLE V. REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has cut its remittance growth projection for 2011, taking into account the unrest in North Africa and the Middle East, as well as the disasters in Japan, and their effect on the employment situation of Filipinos abroad.

Still, BSP officials said the reduction would be minimal as demand for Filipino labor in other parts of the globe would remain robust.

From an earlier forecast of 8 percent, remittances are now expected to rise by 7 percent this year to \$20.1 billion from \$18.8

billion last year, the BSP said.

The decline in growth rate was attributed to a slowdown in deployment in late 2010.

But an economist at HSBC believes otherwise. Sherman Chan, the British banking giant's expert on Southeast Asia, said growth in remittances could bounce back from a 10-month low seen in February, maintaining a full-year pace of 8.5 percent this year despite the problems overseas.

"Remittances in 2011 are expected to remain resilient amid possible downside risks, such as the turmoil in the Mena region and natural disasters in Japan," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a message to economists, bankers and the

business community during an economic forum held Friday.

His message was read by BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr., who attended the event.

BSP officials said that although the projected growth rate had been reduced, the amount of cash sent in through official channels by workers abroad could still reach a new historic high. They

noted that last year's amount was the highest ever recorded. They also said that a 7-percent rise to \$20.1 billion would be enough to boost consumption of Filipino households and help drive the overall economy.

Some Filipinos working abroad lost their jobs due to the political unrest in some oil-producing countries and the disas-

ters in Japan. This development dampened expectations on remittances to the Philippines.

However, Tetangco stressed that remittances could still grow by an encouraging rate this year. He said that any adverse effects on overseas communities would be minimal. Also, an increase in demand for Filipino labor in other parts of the globe would

offset the decline in employment in strife-torn and disaster-stricken areas.

"The natural calamities in Japan may even encourage greater demand for [overseas Filipino] workers once reconstruction efforts commence," Tetangco said.

Disappointment

In the fourth quarter of 2010, total deployment fell by 1.6 percent year-on-year, with land-based deployment declining by 2.6 percent. On the other hand, sea-based deployment went up by 0.9 percent during the period.

"Remittance growth disappointed in February with its third consecutive month of deceleration. But we should not rule out a rebound later in the year, as demand for OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) for construction and healthcare work in Saudi Arabia and Japan is expected to rise," HSBC's Chan said.

"We maintain the view that deployment, and hence remittances, will remain solid this year, with a still-strong appetite for OFWs in Asia and improving demand in the West."

Seeking to insulate Saudi Arabia from the social unrest elsewhere in the region, King Abdullah has announced a multibillion-dollar spending package for citizens.

The Middle East accounts for nearly 16 percent of total OFW remittances, compared to Europe's share of about 17 percent. Bulk of remittances still come from the United States with 53 percent.

Police free 43 girls from sex den in Angeles City

MANILA, Philippines—Authorities rescued 42 alleged sex workers, including a 17-year-old girl, at a night club in Angeles City, Pampanga Thursday night, a police official said Friday.

Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) director Chief Superintendent Samuel Pagdilao Jr. said that the sex workers were rescued after the CIDG Women and Children Protection Division (WCPD), and the CIDG Task Force "Maverick", swooped down on the Sweet Girl Honey Pot night club along Fields Avenue in Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga at around 9:30 p.m.

Citing a report from Superintendent Emma Libunao who led the team in the raid, Pagdilao said that three foreigners, Australian nationals Barry Burston, 69, and Raymond Anderson, 57, and Michael Watt, 59, from New Zealand, were arrested for allegedly operating the club. Also nabbed were two 'floor directors' Judith Pajaron, 38, and Rossana Almeida, 22. The

registered owner of the club, a certain Marites Relos, was not in the club during the raid.

Pagdilao said all those arrested during the raid will face charges for violating R.A. 9208 or the Trafficking in Person Act.

Still citing Libunao's report, the CIDG director stated that the raid was conducted after they received a complaint from Ledilla Cortez on March 16. In her complaint, Cortez said that her 17-year-old missing niece was being held in the night club.

Her niece had been missing for a week when she filed the complaint, said Cortez. She told authorities that she received a text message from her niece, asking to be rescued, on May 14.

Pagdilao said that the victim told CIDG investigators that she was forced to stay, and work in the club because she owed the owner money for the club's 'uniform.'

Libunao said that the women were recruited from as far as Biliran, Leyte and Cataman, Samar. (*INQUIRER.net*)

29 Filipinas in Saudi jail freed

By RODOLFO ESTIMO JR.
ARAB NEWS

RIYADH—Twenty-nine imprisoned Filipino women in Saudi Arabia have been pardoned by the government, the Philippine Embassy announced.

The 29, who were jailed at the Al-Nisa prison in Riyadh, departed Tuesday night for the Philippines, the embassy said.

"The inmates were women charged with petty crimes that are covered by the amnesty. Their crimes included theft and immorality," an embassy official told Arab News on Wednesday. He added that the plane tickets were provided either by the employers or by the Saudi government.

The official said that some of the offenders had served their sentences and had no private liabilities, which means that their employers had not

claimed any damages.

The announcement came on the heels of Migrante-Middle East's call for the embassy to include the names of 50 other overseas Filipino workers recommended for royal pardon.

"These OFWs detained at the Al-Hail jail were charged with petty crimes, and some of them have served their jail sentences," Migrant-Middle East regional coordinator John Leonard Monterona told Arab News. He added that his organization "almost daily receives calls from the OFWs with the request to be included in the embassy's list recommended for royal pardon."

"We are requesting the Philippine Embassy to provide us with an update and indicate who among them have been granted pardon, who have been cleared and whose case is still being heard," Monterona said.



POPULATION CONTROL

In this photo taken March 8, 2011, a child plays between his mother's legs along a street in Manila, Philippines. After simmering for months, an acrimonious debate over government-funded access to contraceptives has entered Philippine Congress, known as the reproductive health bill. The bill introduced Tuesday, May 17, 2011 in the House of Representatives would require the government to provide information on family planning methods, make contraceptives available free of charge and introduce reproductive health and sexuality classes in schools. The Roman Catholic church opposes the bill.

AP PHOTO/BULLIT MARQUEZ

Philippines nixes Saudi move to lower maids' wages

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has rejected an appeal from Saudi Arabia to cut the minimum wage for Filipino maids in half and will not be sending new domestic helpers until the dispute is solved, the labor chief said Friday.

Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said the Saudi government wants the minimum monthly salary for Filipino maids lowered from \$400 to \$200.

Saudi officials have complained that the Philippine government has imposed other strict measures on Saudi employers, including giving out their personal data and information on their income. In March, the Saudi Foreign Ministry announced it was suspending processing of new contracts.

About 1.2 million Filipinos work in the kingdom, including skilled laborers, nurses and maids. They are part of about 9 million Filipinos, or 10 percent of the population, who work in 190 countries to escape poverty and unemployment at home.

Workers abroad send back remittances amounting to 10 percent of the country's annual gross domestic product,

fueling domestic consumption and keeping the local economy afloat.

Baldoz said the Philippine government's requirements are mandated by law, including the minimum wage, as part of measures to protect the welfare of overseas workers particularly in Arab countries, where abuse is rampant.

The Philippines has barred deployment of workers to some Middle East countries, including Lebanon and Syria.

Baldoz said that oil-rich Gulf countries were pressuring the Philippines to relax the rules for overseas workers, citing the mediation efforts some of the Arab governments have undertaken in the southern Philippines, where Muslim rebels are fighting for self-rule in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

"These countries continue to pressure us not to impose the ban, citing their political role in the peace negotiations in the southern Philippines and threats to cut oil supplies," she said. "There is really a wide political repercussion regarding the hiring of household service workers."

She said about 13,000 maids head to Saudi Arabia every year, of which 9,000 are newly hired and the rest are returning

workers who have their contracts renewed.

Baldoz said she planned to discuss the wage dispute with

her Saudi counterparts at an International Labor Organization conference in Geneva next month.

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Philippines is new WHO auditor

MANILA, Philippines—The Aquino administration's fight against corruption has gone global.

The Philippines has clinched the post of external auditor of the World Health Organization, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said on Thursday night.

"We just won the position of auditor of the World Health Organization. We beat Germany, France, Spain and Malaysia,"

Lacierda quoted Commission on Audit chair Grace Tan as saying.

In a text message, Lacierda said that according to Tan, the Philippines led the first round of voting and then beat Germany 74-62 in the runoff.

"We're very happy for the credibility of COA being restored and its resurgence in the international community," he quoted Tan.

Tan and COA Commis-

sioner Heidi Mendoza are in Geneva, Switzerland, to attend the WHO vote for its external auditor position.

"Our permanent mission in Geneva headed by Ambassador Evan Garcia and Ministers Dennis and Maite Lepatan and the Department of Health delegation led by Health Secretary Enrique Ona were all out in their support," Lacierda said. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

In PH govt's growth plan, OFWs a money matter

By JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO and ISAGANI DE LA PAZ
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

MANILA—Overseas Filipino workers are a matter of state financial policy, the Philippine government's growth plan for the next six years revealed.

A set of digital presentations containing excerpts of the 2011-2016 Philippine Development Plan have OFWs included in Chapter 5—"Financial Sector"—with a strategy of promoting "financial inclusion and equitable access to financial services".

The PDP's full text is yet to be made available to the public more than a month after the National Economic and Development Authority board announced approval of its adoption of the PDP during a meeting March 28 in Malacañang.

The PDP outlines the socio-economic development targets of the country and how government plans to achieve these.

The PDP presentation files that the *OFW Journalism Consortium* found posted online recently showed only excerpts of the nine chapters in the PDP.

Based on the excerpts of Chapter 5, the government said it will "promote greater financial literacy in the countryside and OFW-rich areas abroad through enhanced NGO and public-private partnerships".

The Chapter, however, was absent on the specific mechanics of how government will traverse such path for OFWs.

One draft of the PDP—there are several since President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III's government began work on it in 2010—included local government units in "financial education programs".

The draft as of January 2011 and sent via email by a nongovernment organization also noted that a "holistic financial education approach is critical" in promoting financial literacy.

Including OFWs in a chapter on financial policy differs from how past presidents treated overseas migration in their respective growth plans.

Previous medium-term

PDPs, such as those under former presidents Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, contained a separate chapter on labor and employment, which traditionally included the OFW sector.

The 2011-2016 PDP mentioned labor and employment in Chapter 2, albeit emphasizing attracting investments in order to generate jobs.

The Aquino government's treatment of OFWs in its PDP has been observed as "limited," by the Scalabrini Migration Center.

International migration, the SMC said in its recently-released online study, "is treated in a limited way" in the MTPDP, and "has yet to be integrated and mainstreamed in national development planning".

At the same time, SMC research director Dr. Maruja Asis wrote in *Minding the Gap: Migration, Development and Governance in the Philippines* that international migration policies have "to be linked to broader development processes"—not just on job generation and employment-related issues to which "international migration policy-making is very much focused."

Another group wasn't so kind.

In a statement, the multi-sectoral Fair Trade Alliance (FairTrade) said it was dismayed over the Aquino government's MTPDP, saying the plan "lacks a 'cohesive, comprehensive and pro-Filipino development agenda'."

"The current draft of the MTPDP bares no semblance to a development plan nor does it lay down a national industrialization policy," the FairTrade said.

But Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) chairperson Imelda Nicolas said in a World Bank-sponsored forum abroad that CFO and migration-and-development stakeholders provided inputs in the chapters on macro-economy, financial sector, and social development.

Nicolas said the inputs in the macro-economy chapter in-

cluded: harnessing remittances for development and supporting local government units to channel remittances to community development.

For the financial sector, the inputs were to generate comprehensive data on remittances, and to develop mechanisms for maximum developmental use of remittances.

For the chapter on social development, Nicolas said her office recommended mainstreaming migration and development in national and local development planning and using the community-based monitoring system in local development planning and mobilization of remittances.

A draft of the PDP assumes a "steady inflow of remittances from migrant Filipinos."

And together with these remittances, the draft PDP said the Philippine government was able to pursue "broad-based financial sector reforms."

The draft PDP also assumes that "Overseas Filipinos (OFs) have been looking for investment opportunities in the Philippines."

Hence, it recommends that the national government (NG) "structure the issuance of debt papers earmarked for long-term funding needs." By doing so, "OFs may find interest because they receive coupons in FCY while assured by NG that the funds are indeed earmarked."

"The NG should be indifferent to this structure because it is similar to an ODA [official development assistance] structure except that funding is from OFs."

The provision related to OFWs and OFs in the fifth chapter of the new PDP is seen as a response to clamors from various sectors for the Philippines to harness remittances for development.

But sources from NEDA said the complete text of the 2011-2016 PDP are still being edited and finalized before copies will be formally circulated. The NEDA central office website does not yet have even the Powerpoint files the *OFW Journalism Consortium* found.



TOY SALE

A woman is surrounded by inflatable toys of different cartoon characters as she waits for customers Friday, May 20, 2011 in Manila, Philippines.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Prosperity begins with 'S'

By EFREN LL. CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

QUESTION: When is the best time to invest and where is the best place to put money nowadays?

Invariably, my training participants would ask me these questions. And always, I would take them one step back, to help move them two steps forward.

I tell my training participants to first ask themselves what they are investing for. Investing is not just about making money. Surprised? Don't be. Investing is all about making the future affordable. Investing is just a tool to achieve prosperity in life. And prosperity is not limited to wealth but also encompasses other things like health and happiness.

This has been the rule since the beginning of time. And as the title of this article says, prosperity begins with the letter "S," or savings.

Obviously, a person cannot invest if he does not have the funds to invest with.

Based on figures from the National Statistics Office, the Philippines had consistently underperformed its Asian neighbors in terms of savings rate from 1986 to 1997.

The Philippines' savings rate hovered at around 16 percent while those of its neighbors ranged from a low of 25 percent to a high of 56 percent.

What allows our Asian neighbors to save more than us? The answer may very well lie in the practice of one of the richest men in the country. We need not identify this man. All we need is to learn from his actions.

I plotted the Philippines' GNP growth rates against the number of malls that this rich man put up from 1983 to 2008.

In this period, I found out that our rich man would put

up malls whenever there were crises, whether they be political, economic or those created by nature.

Now why would a rich man invest in new malls when the world around him seems to be crumbling? For sure, it takes a lot of guts to do so. But at the same time, it also takes a lot of business sense.

A common misperception is that the Chinese word for crisis means danger and opportunity. However, Victor H. Mair of the University of Pennsylvania, as quoted by Wikipedia, says that part of the word is actually closer to crucial point than opportunity. And our rich man, together with the shrewd businessmen of China, know exactly how crucial crisis points can be.

In a crisis, many things go on fire sale, especially if the crisis will lead to an economic downturn. Going back to my chart, our rich man would initially open malls whenever there would be an economic downturn spawned by a crisis. And he would do so because many things would be cheap like land, labor, construction materials and many other things.

Then he would wait and save the fruits of his investment as the economy would recover. Yes, he would save because he probably knew that during those early days, there would be other crises or opportunities that would come his way. And come they did.

But even before he opened his first mall, I am pretty sure that he would have already saved. As soon as his first set of investments started giving him enough free cash, our rich man began to invest continuously.

So what is the moral of the story? First, save! Then invest your savings. If you are investing by yourself, wait for the opportunities to come your way. By the way, investment

opportunities can come not just from crises. But if they do, face them head-on instead of running away.

If you are investing on the side, then just hire a fund or business manager you trust to invest your money for you. But do invest additional sums periodically.

Now where is the best place to put your money? If you know what you are investing for, you would know how much it would cost in the future, how long before you need money for it and obviously how much you have to start with.

These three factors are enough to determine how much you need to earn from your investment and how much risk you will need to take. If you invest additional sums periodically, you can even reduce the return you need to make and the risk you need to take.

Consult a registered financial planner with this information and he or she will tell you where best to place your money.

If you are clueless on where to find registered financial planners, visit www.rfp.ph, click on "Membership" and then click "How to Hire an RFP®."

So when is the best time to invest? Any time but especially during crises. Where is the best place to put money nowadays? Get a registered financial planner to help you find the best place that suits your particular need.

Happy investing.

Efren Ll. Cruz is a registered financial planner with the RFP Philippines. He is author of the bestselling books, Pwede Na! The Complete Pinoy Guide to Personal Finance and Pwede Na! The Complete Pinoy Guide to Retirement & Estate Planning. To learn more about RFP program, visit www.rfp.ph or e-mail info@rfp.ph.)

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

P16-M 'gift' from TV5 to Willie

By **MARINEL R. CRUZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Instead of getting kicked out, controversial TV host Willie Revillame and his game show have received a “gift” worth millions from the home network.

According to Jay Montelibano, business unit head of the reformatted program, now called “Wil Time Bigtime,” TV5 spent P16 million for the LED (light-emitting diode) flooring that premiered on the show Saturday.

“That doesn’t include the software and the [LED screens] mounted on the center wall, which cost P12 million, and those on the sides, another P6 million,” Montelibano told *Inquirer* after the show.

“Wil Time Bigtime” is a coproduction of TV5 and Revillame’s Wil Productions. TV5 senior

vice president and COO Roberto Barreiro said, “We’ve long thought of improving the show—even before the controversy. While the show was off the air, we took the time [to install the new equipment].”

The game show formerly called “Willing Willie” stopped airing on April 9 following protests because of its March 12 episode, where a 6-year-old did the “macho dance.”

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board ordered a 30-day suspension of the show, but counted the period of the show’s voluntary suspension.

Montelibano said the production team “felt vindicated” on account of TV5’s support. “This kept us going,” he said. “MVP [TV5 chair Manny Pangilinan] said he didn’t want Willie to quit. He said Willie’s pain was also his pain; Willie’s strength

was also his strength.”

Revillame’s cohost, Valenzuela councilor Shalani Soledad, said Pangilinan and TV5 “took [good] care of us... We [were paid] even while the show was not airing.”

But Pangilinan wasn’t around to watch on Saturday, as he did on October 23, when the show premiered. Barreiro said the chairman was in California. “Before he left,” Barreiro said, “he told production, ‘Paghusayan, pagandahin at mag-ingat.’”

The controversy had resulted in ad pull-outs. Montelibano said negotiations with advertisers began last week. “I’m confident that most of them will come back,” he said. “I personally met with them. They’re very responsive to the changes.”

On Saturday, it was as if nothing happened. Revillame was back to his confident self. He even

kissed rumored girlfriend Soledad’s hand.

Prayers were said five minutes before airing at 5 p.m. The opening number featured the 18-member Bigtime Girls, formerly WW Girls, as well as hosts Sugar Mercado, Aimee Hart and Baby Saya.

Revillame exchanged jokes with guests Rico J. Puno, Nonoy Zuñiga, Marco Sison and Richard Gomez during the “Wil Time Bigtime” segment, which also featured young actresses Carla Humphries, Ritz Azul and Arcee Munoz. This was the same segment where Jan-Jan Suan, 6, performed a macho dance.

During the show, Revillame announced an upcoming world tour as part of the promotion for TV5’s international channel to be launched later this year. He thanked those who supported him “when I doubted myself.”

“The show’s new title has an international [ring] to it. It would be easier to promote when we go abroad,” explained Montelibano. “Since we changed 85 percent of the content, we thought of changing the title as well.”

Sam laughs off rumors of her and Vic Sotto

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sam Pinto laughs off rumors linking her to Vic Sotto. “I was surprised to hear that,” she says. “Bossing is nice naman. That’s it. Hahaha... Maybe I’ll be his leading lady after my team-up with Senator Bong (Revilla).”

Vic is also being linked to a flight stewardess. I remember teasing his ex-wife, Dina Bonnevie, that they could end up back together. “Ligawan niya muna ako uli,” quipped Ms D. “I told one girl linked to Vic some years back, ‘Kung type mo si Vic ’wag mo habulin.’ Hahaha.”

Reunion

Sitti found a missing piece of herself when she finally met her biological dad in Mindanao. “He’s Muslim. We are from Mapun, Tawi-Tawi,” she told me. “I never saw my dad before, but I grew up in a healthy family environment. But one day it hit me—I should meet my dad! I took the

next flight out with my mom, who supported my decision.”

How did the reunion go? “I asked him a lot of questions and he explained many things to me. We talked and bonded for two days. Now I know that I got my being cooky from him.” How does she feel now? “That allowed me to make sense of things,” she said.

“The pieces of my life that were lost have now been found. There are some events that remain unclear but to finally meet the one person I can truly call Papa feels nice.”

Fatherhood

Speaking of fatherhood, Ogie Alcasid and Regine Velasquez can hardly contain their excitement for

the coming baby. “Fatherhood is a real blessing,” Ogie says, beaming.

“I am thankful that I have been given another chance to love one more child.”

Do they already have names to choose from? “None yet,” he says “I would not mind knowing the gender before Reg gives birth, so we can decide on the name.”

What does Reg crave? “It’s her 11th week of pregnancy. She eats mostly healthy stuff.”

Body talk with Rich Asuncion

It took a while before I could reconcile the girl barely out of her teens I met a few years ago in Tagbilaran City to the girl so sexy and sophisticated on the cover of the latest issue of FHM magazine.

She was then simply Rachel Angalot, 15, who lived with her parents and three siblings at a humble hut along a road on the way to the Chocolate Hills in Bohol. I was a judge of the Miss Bohol pageant in connection with the Sandugo Festival, of which my friend Betty Veloso-Garcia (a Boholana nurse working at a New York hospital) was president, and Rachel was declared first runner-up. Over snacks of Fried Saba at the coffee shop of Metro Centre, my other Boholano friends Boy Echavez and Raoul Tidalgo were advising the shy Rachel to come out of her shell. “You could be Miss Bohol Sandugo, not just a runner-up,” we told her.

Before long, Rachel Angalot became Rich Asuncion when she joined the GMA talent search Star-Struck in 2007. And then, she joined the Bb. Pilipinas pageant in 2009 and finished first runner-up to Bianca Manalo, the Bb. Pilipinas-Universe who’s now also in showbiz (co-host of the ABS-CBN noontime show Happy Yipee Yehey!); and Melody Gersbach, the Bicolana Bb. Pilipinas-International who died in a car accident last year.

And now, here she is on the FHM cover, in full bloom at 22—with a flourishing career to boot, cast as a villainess in the new GMA soap *Sisid*.

An Aquarian (Jan. 22), Rich stands 5’7”, weighs 125 lbs., measures 34-25-35, and wears small-size shirt and size-9 shoes. She’s taking up B.S. Tourism in UP Diliman, the same course she was enrolled in at the Holy Name

University in Tagbilaran when showbiz lured her into the bigger city.

How did you prepare for the FHM photo shoot?

“Actually, I got a very short notice, mga one month lang. So I went on a crash diet. I cut my food intake. Nag-brown rice ako, wheat bread with raisins, fruits. But before a meal, I would fill myself up with soup or water para konti lang ang makain ko.”

What about workout?

“I jogged around UP (Diliman). On weekends, I play badminton and volleyball in sportfests with my friends from Bohol.”

What’s your regular diet?

“I don’t take breakfast but I eat a heavy lunch which usually consists of mostly fish. I got used to eating fish because my mother sells fish. When I was growing up in Bohol, we would eat meat only on weekends. For dinner, lots of soup and only two to three spoonfuls of brown rice, and fruits.”

Snacks between meals?

“Camotecue or bananacue.”

What vitamins do you take?

“Vitamin C and, sometimes, multi-vitamins. But I often forget to take my vitamins.”

What was your regular workout before FHM?

“Regular workout? Household chores. I wash the dishes, I clean the house. Any chore that makes me perspire. I jump-rope. I don’t want to work out in the gym. Hindi ko feel.”

Judging from the FHM pictorial, your body is, well, perfect. Any part that you think still needs improvement?

“My thighs. Medyo malaki.”

What part of your body is most vulnerable?

“My head. Kapag stressed ako, I get a headache. I get stressed easily because ako lahat sa bahay. Marami akong iniisip. Mga problema.”

And what part of your body is your favorite?

“My waist. I like my curves. Naiinggit sila sa curves ko. Hehehe!”

What’s the first thing that you notice in a guy’s body?

“His eyes.”

What else turns you on in a guy?

“Yung malalaki ang kamay. I don’t know why, but it makes me feel na kaya niya akong protektahan. My high school crush has big hands, sobrang laki ng kamay niya.”

And what turns you off?

“Yung kulot ang buhok. I don’t know, basta ayokong lang. It irritates me.”

How much sleep do you get per night?

“I try to get eight hours. If not at night, I make up for lack of sleep by taking a nap...even on the set. Mabilis akong makatulog. If I don’t have work, all I do is sleep.”

Favorite sleepwear?

“Loose T-shirt and short-shorts.”

Do you snore?

“A bit. Pa-cute. Sabi ni Maxene (Magalona), I snore. Proof? One time, vinideo niya ako.”

Do you talk in your sleep?

“No, I don’t. Thank God! Baka kung anong pangalan ang mabanggit ko. Hehehehe!”

Do you sleepwalk?

“Thank God, I don’t. Baka kung saan ako mapadpad. Hehehehe!”

How many pillows do you sleep with?

“Two. One under my head and the other I hug.”

Last thing that you do before you go to sleep?

“Check my cellphone for text messages and missed calls and then turn it to ‘silent.’”

First thing that you do when you wake up?

“Activate my cellphone and check for text messages and missed calls.”

How do you cope with stress?

“You know, I am so lucky to have my little brother around. Sobrang kenkoy niya. All he does is make faces and he makes me laugh. Then, wala na ang pagod at stress ko.”

Favorite city?

“Tagbilaran, of course!”

What kind of music and movies do you like?

“I like feel-good music and horror movies.”



Funfare
By RICARDO F. LO
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Favorite hideaway (maybe a beach in Bohol, aside from, ehem, Bohol Beach Cub which I know is most memorable to you and Double A)?

“Morning Hair in Loay, also in Bohol.”

How’s your love life?

“Wala. Zero!”

Oh, don’t you have a (new) boyfriend?

“None...since I broke up with him six months ago.”

“His loss, not yours.”

Many girls would do everything to whiten their complexion. What about you?

“I’d rather not. I love my color (light chocolate-brown). I’ve been offered to be an endorser of a whitening product pero ayoko talaga. I love my complexion.”

Many girls are afraid of the sun. Are you?

“No, I’m not. I love the sun. In fact, my mom would always remind me when I go out, ‘Magpayong ka ha’. Gusto ko magbilal sa araw.”

How often do you get your dermatologist?

“Dapat regularly. But I haven’t seen her for weeks now. Sorry po, Dr. Weng Matias. The last time I saw her was before the FHM pictorial.”

What’s your outlook in life?

“I’m a bit pessimistic. Maybe because of my humble beginnings. I always put meaning into everything or every time something happens. I would say, ‘Siguro ganyan dahil ganito lang ako...’ I’m trying to overcome that feeling. I believe that what you get is what you deserve.”

Name three men that you think have nice bodies.

“Manny Pacquiao. Dingdong Dantes. Ryan Reynolds.”

And three women you think have bodies as nice and sexy as yours.

“Iza Calzado. Lucy Torres. Angelina Jolie.”

Using only body language, how would you make a guy know that you admire him?

“I don’t do anything. Kunwari ini-ignore ko siya. I grew up in the province at ang mga tao doon kahit gustung-gusto nila, they keep it to themselves.”

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

More than money

In the two resolutions on the Carlos Garcia plea bargain agreement that the Sandiganbayan issued on May 9, the anti-graft court's Second Division equated the interest of the government with the recovery of property. In other words, it understood the legal issue in terms of money. Justice, which the judges conflated with the need to protect the government's interest in the case, meant getting Garcia, the military comptroller who earned a mere five-figure monthly salary, to part with some of his unexplained wealth.

Assuming for the moment that the Second Division is right, the inevitable next question is: Why settle only for P135 million? The amount is not even half of the P303 million Garcia was found to have owned, when the authorities finally caught up with him. In what way is forfeiting less than 45 percent of a military officer's unexplained wealth in the country's best interests—especially when evidence found by the Anti Money Laundering Council, ignored by the Office of the Ombudsman but aired during a Senate blue ribbon committee hearing, suggests that Garcia's wealth at one time may have even topped P700 million?

On its own terms, then, the Second Division must be judged to have fallen far short of its own mediocre objectives. Its green-lighting of a plea bargain in which the official with unexplained wealth was allowed to keep 55 percent of the amount discovered is tantamount to an act of surrender. As former Supreme Court Chief Justice Art Panganiban pointed out in his column on Sunday, if Garcia's counsel thought the evidence against his client was in fact weak, as the Second Division asserted, then he would have filed a demurrer to the evidence.

But is the central legal issue in the Garcia case only about money? That is a narrow view of the responsibilities that the people entrust to the Office of the Ombudsman which prosecutes graft and corruption cases and to the Sandiganbayan which hears them. (In fact, the very plea bargain—essentially a deal with an official caught red-handed—was one reason why an overwhelming majority of congressmen voted to impeach Merceditas Gutierrez.) Forfeiting illegal wealth in favor of the government is an important task, but it isn't the only or even the principal demand in any graft and corruption case.

The central issue must be to do justice, as the people define it and as the agencies of government are duty-bound to understand it: punishing the corrupt, stopping the scourge of corruption. Stopping at a money settlement, stopping short of what the law itself demands, fails to meet that issue head-on.

There is no question about the end result, however. The resolution effectively enables corruption, in the military as well as in government in general, to continue.

It shows us that even undisputed proof of direct bribery can be nuanced away. It shows us that government officials can continue to keep much of their unexplained wealth, wealth generated during their government service—even though they failed to follow the law and explain the true sources of their income.

Not least, it shows us that justice understood only in terms of money is not justice at all, but a reward for corruption.

Provocations

Archbishop Ramon Arguelles says it's government that provoked first. He cited in particular President Aquino's warning that the pro-life groups who are threatening a tax boycott against the RH bill would be charged with sedition.

"Will you be calm if you are held at gunpoint? We can't be calm when the results of similar bills like [the RH bill] are evident in other countries ... We can't be calm because they are pushing for what is not right."

From another end, Bishop Arturo Bastes cautioned the youth not to be swayed by celebrities advocating family planning. "They do not know what they are talking about." They have not thoroughly studied the effects of the RH bill on the morality of the youth.

I agree completely, the results of measures like the RH bill are evident in other countries. They have progressed beyond our wildest dreams. They have left us biting their dust. And they are far more moral—just look at the 9-year-old Japanese kid—than we have ever been, than we are now, than we will ever be with this kind of Catholic Church guiding us.

I've heard the camp opposing RH say again and again that family planning hasn't really succeeded elsewhere without bothering to offer proof. What can one say? Habits are hard to break, particularly the one that says you should take everything on faith. It flies in the face of reality.

China for one maintains a one-child policy. If they hadn't done that, can you imagine the mind-boggling size of the Chinese population today? Especially if they had retained the pre-Revolution practice of having epic households? Can you have any more formidable proof of success, and one that has benefited not just China but the world, than that?

The Chinese say that to assure immortality you have to do one of three things, or all of the above: plant a tree, write a book, and have children. The Chinese have done all three, while heroically trying to limit the third. We have done only the third. We do not particularly care to plant trees and write books (let alone read them), we just like to breed like rabbits. My apologies to rabbits. Immortality is the least of the things it assures, oblivion is first.

Indonesia for another has had a successful family planning program, reducing the average number of children per family from six to seven in the 1970s to three today. Courtesy of its current president, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, it has leaped out of the pack to become the poster boy of democracy in our part of the world. Or do you still think we hold that title? Indonesia is home to the biggest Muslim population in the world, a fact that has not deterred its inhabitants from trying to limit their size, lest life in this planet stops being sustainable. It's called responsibility. It's called morality. It's called a concern for life. Real life.

Or, what, Allah holds life less precious than Jehovah?

Josephine Bracken sues Rizal's mother, 1902

In 1902, Paciano Rizal Mercado, elder brother of Jose Rizal and a general of the Filipino-American War who had retired to an estate in Los Baños, broke a 15-year silence by writing Ferdinand Blumentritt in Europe. Josephine Bracken, common-law wife of Rizal in Dapitan, had sued Teodora Alonso in an attempt to force the Rizal family to produce what she claimed was Rizal's last will and testament. Paciano advised Blumentritt to ignore Josephine who might turn to him for sympathy. Paciano told Blumentritt that he and the Rizal family knew of no such will.

Years earlier, Josephine had written a series of letters to Blumentritt requesting his assistance in claiming what was due her as Rizal's widow—a modest fortune that included P1,000 in cash; Rizal's library then packed and stored in Hong Kong, and entrusted to Jose Ma. Basa, which was worth around P3,000; and paintings by Juan Luna that, then as now, were prized canvasses. Josephine complained that by withholding her "husband's will," the Rizal family cheated her of a rightful share in Rizal's estate.

Two decades ago I stumbled on this distasteful exchange of letters in the National Library. Why nobody had cited them before is a question I am leaving for another column. To provide readers with a sense of the issue, let me quote an unedited letter that Josephine sent to Blumentritt on Nov. 29, 1897:

"Respectable Friend: I let you know by these few lines that my late husband Dr. J. Rizal left all his books to you. There are three bookcases, I mean library in care of Mr. Jose Maria Basa's house. I opened the will last month and found that the bookcases were for you, he very often told me that those books cost him 3000\$. I asked Mr. Basa for the books and he denied them, I think it is better for you to write over and ask him for the things that my husband left for you.

"Yes; dear friend the Philippines (Filipinos?) out here now they are not Gentlemen, they deceived me a great deal their were 1000\$ given to Rizal by the Freemason Lodge so it was to be given to me, but they took it and spent it all. I think it is the best thing for you to give me a letter to hand the book cases to me and I will sent it over to you, because Mr. Basa is selling all the best books. I have lots of troubles with the Philippines (Filipinos) they are not what I thought them to be, I took them to be like my husband, but I see that I am deceived.

"Hoping that all your famailly (family) are enjoying good health and please excuse my letter if it is badly written because I am with a strong feavour (fever?)."

This faithful transcription of the manuscript letter above displays Josephine's command of English and makes me wonder how and why she offered Eng-



There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

What takes the cake is that Arguelles' supporters should want to wage a tax boycott against RH. I had been calling for a tax boycott before—against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. That was so especially after "Hello Garci." You pay taxes only to a legitimate president, not to an illegitimate one. You pay taxes only to a moral government, not an immoral one. I did as I preached, refusing to file my taxes since 2005—I filed it only this year, with the new government, a perfectly legitimate one—urging others to do so as well in my column. (Unfortunately for me, though I wasn't filing my taxes, I was having them deducted from me through tax withheld. But that is another story.

You want to refuse to pay taxes, refuse to pay taxes for the right reasons. But if I recall right, Arguelles in particular not only did not join the protest against Arroyo, least of all urge

people not to pay their taxes, he defended "Hello, Garci" by saying everybody cheats anyway. An astonishing proposition from anyone, let alone a prince of the Church. As I said then, if everyone cheated anyway, then it was time to stop it and not tolerate it. But talk of "pushing for what is not right."

The provocation began long before RH, except that the bishops did not hurl it at government, they hurled it at the citizenry.

Pray, what are, or can be, the immoral effects of the RH bill on the youth? While at that, who knows less what they are talking about, the celebrities, many of whom have families of their own, or the priests and bishops, some of whom have children of their own but who have neither owned up to them nor taken care of them? Former President Fidel Ramos made the most sense when he said at the "purple ribbon" launch last week that while everyone has been heard on this issue, including the mythical "unborn child," the mothers have not been so. And they are the ones who really matter.

Who is the more concerned about life, the one who takes care to have only as many children as he or she can take care of—not by abortion but by contraception, it has to be said again and again—or the person who bangs away without thought of tomorrow, without thought of others, bahala na si Batman, it's up to God, or the throw of the dice, or the spew of the seed? Who embraces life more fiercely, the one who makes sure that the child he or she launches into the world will have a life, and not only a death, of body and of soul, or the one who spawns like there's no tomorrow, and truly there won't be any, oblivious to the plight of one's own, oblivious to the plight of others, oblivious to the plight of the planet? Who is more open to life, the one who is open to love, who sees conjoining of bodies as the supreme expression of it, without fear of producing more mouths to feed, or the one who feels only need and creed and obligation?

Who has the right values?

You say the second, you're just provoking-laughter.



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

lish classes when she was living in Cebu. Nevertheless, she did not want for clients, and it has been said that one of her pupils was Sergio Osmeña. From the letter above, it is also clear that she wanted Blumentritt to give her the authority to claim Rizal's books from Basa so that she could send them to Europe. Why not have the books sent direct from Basa in Hong Kong to Blumentritt in Litomerice? I have often been accused of going beyond the documents, but anyone who reads the letters can sense something amiss.

According to the late Austin Coates, when Josephine's lawyers came round to claim these books, Basa simply asked Josephine to prove she was indeed married to Rizal. The legal issue ended there but left another historical problem: were Rizal and Josephine married? There is a

Jesuit account regarding the marriage in Fort Santiago shortly before Rizal walked to his execution, but that is not what people still debate about. Marriage means that Rizal did write and sign that controversial document of retraction that was uncovered in the archives of the Arzobispado de Manila decades after his execution.

Whether Rizal's retraction is a forgery or not provides some people with meaning in life; let's leave them to their interests and agendas.

There must be some legal document somewhere to provide context to the letters between Josephine, Blumentritt and Paciano that ran from 1897 to the time of the lawsuit in 1902. Josephine claimed she saw a copy of Rizal's will and demanded that the Rizal family produce it. Paciano declared Rizal died intestate. It was her word against Rizal's mother and brother. When you come to it, how can the "dulce extranjera" (sweet foreigner) immortalized in Rizal's "Ultimo Adios" hope to win a case in court by suing Rizal's sainted mother Teodora Alonso?

Then there is the question of the original manuscript of the "Ultimo Adios" that Josephine took when she left the Rizal household for Hong Kong in 1897. Was this her property or the property of the family? This manuscript was acquired by the Philippine government in 1908 from an unnamed American collector and is now preserved in the National Library in Manila. Was the manuscript stolen? Or was it rightfully Josephine's to sell later? All these are sordid details best swept under the rug during Rizal's 150th birthday next month, but these illustrate clearly that our heroes and historical figures were human as you and me. Sometimes, encouraged by lawyers, they haled each other to court too—perhaps, with the famous last words, "I will demand you!" [Ide-demanda kita!]

Comments are welcome in my Facebook Fan Page.

Maharlika – Samu’t Sari



BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY

Members of the Pacific Flowers get ready to perform Monday night during the 2011 Buddha Birthday Festival held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. The celebration was organized by the Chinese Association of Saipan and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



CONFERENCE ON AGING

Members of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council are all smiles as they have their photo taken with Aging Office director Rose Mondala during the Conference on Aging at Aqua Resort Club last Thursday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



HERITAGE MONTH

Christyl Johnson, deputy director for Science and Technology, and members of the Goddard APA Advisory Council present Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo with a plaque during an Asian Pacific American Heritage Month commemoration ceremony at Goddard Space Flight Center.

DEBORA MCCALLUM, NASA/GODDARD



ADULT SCHOOL GRADUATES

NMC

NMC Rota Adult School graduates pose for a photo after the Mass and the completion ceremony at San Isidro Church. A total of 14 students successfully completed the program. Eleven of the 14 participated in the completion ceremony. Front row left to right: Javiann H. Lizama, Bill M. Manglona, Joseph M. Barcinas Jr., and Gabriella Josie Lynn M. Quitugua. Second row, from left: Ross Manglona, NMC CREES director; Elaine Orilla, NMC Board of Regents; and Joe Ignacio L. King. Third row, from left: Martin Mendiola, NMC Rota Program coordinator, and Frank Norita, UBP Student Activities coordinator. Back row from: Paul Christopher M. Camacho, Raphael B. Quitugua, Melvin M. Manglona Jr., David Attao, NMC acting dean of COMPASS; Maria Lydia A. Flawau, Leroy Lee M. Arriola, Franklin M. Lizama, and Evelyn Mendiola, NMC CREES nutritionist / ABE instructor.



Rose Chan of the Chinese Association of Saipan assists Riza Cano in the Bathing of the Buddha ceremony during which guests poured water on the small Buddha statue to eliminate evil thoughts, cultivate good deeds, and help save all living beings.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

BRIEFING WITH THE BOSS

Military Outreach Director Mark Calvo of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve talks about the organization's programs during the Briefing with the Boss luncheon at Pacific Islands Club Friday last week.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo and Christyl Johnson, deputy director for Science and Technology, view an exhibit at an Asian Pacific American Heritage Month commemoration ceremony at Goddard Space Flight Center.

DEBORA MCCALLUM, NASA/GODDARD



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Neil Trinidad, who is celebrating his 6th birthday today, May 21, 2011! Greetings come from Mom and Dad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LETTERS OF HOPE

Executive secretary Vinyia Seman of the Saipan Mayor's Office gestures as she talks about "Kibo No Tegami - Letters of Hope" campaign during the Saipan Rotary Club's meeting Tuesday. A total of 823 letters were received and endorsed to the Haski Rotary Club of Japan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Young Style

Chess players making all the right moves at younger and younger ages

By SCOTT KRAFT
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SANTA CLARA, Calif.—The two chess masters hunched over their royal armies, lost in thought.

On one side, playing white, was 10-year-old Sam Sevia, who a few months ago became the youngest chess master in U.S. Chess Federation history. His opponent, playing black, was David Adelberg, 14, who had been crowned the youngest chess master in Arizona when he was 12.

Sam had lost a match to David two years earlier. This time, he vowed, would be different.

The windowless hotel meeting room in Agoura Hills, Calif., filled with dozens of players, was as silent as a church sanctuary. Sam and David came out playing the Scheveningen variation of the Sicilian defense, a favorite of the grandmaster Garry Kasparov, one of their idols.

As the match entered its fourth hour, Sam decided to stir things up. For 40 minutes, he studied his position, brown sneakers suspended above the carpet, fists pressed against his chestnut-colored hair, lips moving silently.

Finally, Sam made his move: a bishop sacrifice.

Sam's father, Armen, smelling of the cigarette he'd smoked on the balcony, caught his son's eye with an expression that silently asked: How's it going? Sam shrugged his shoulders and raised his palms: Who knows?

But Sam's chess coach, standing nearby, watched with a small smile of satisfaction. "What he's doing is very complicated, very complicated," he said. "But it might work."

■ ■ ■

The title of chess master is awarded to players who reach a threshold of points, earned in official tournament competition and based on their performance as well as the strength of their opponents.

The average age of chess masters has been steadily falling for years but, recently, that pace has quickened. To win a tournament in Reno last year, Jesse Kraai, a 28-year-old grandmaster from the Bay Area, played four of his six matches against children; the average age was 13.

"Today, you have 7- and 8-year-olds who are training better than Bobby Fischer did a generation before," said David Pruess, content manager for chess.com a global chess website with 3 million members. He holds the international master ranking, one step higher than master and one below grandmaster.

This bounty of prodigal talent has had an unintended side effect: The half-life of a newly minted chess star has shrunk "to a year or two, tops," said Pruess, 29. "It's easy for a kid on his way up, full of confidence bordering on arrogance, to forget that he's become a target for even younger players."

Pruess, in a column last year, detailed his own loss to David Adelberg and good-naturedly warned the youngster that he'd better start preparing "for the 10-year-olds who will soon be coming to get him!"

That turned out to be prescient. Young David's nemesis turned out to be Sam Sevia, a fourth-grader from Santa Clara, Calif., who, in December, became a chess master at the age of 9 years, 11 months and 11 days. (Sam followed in the footsteps of Fischer,



▲ Samuel Sevia, a 10-year-old boy from Santa Clara, California, has become the youngest national master in U.S. Chess Federation history. MCT

► Samuel Sevia makes a move against David Adelberg, 14, who had been crowned the youngest chess master in Arizona when he was 12. MCT



who earned the title of youngest chess master in 1956, at the age of 13 years, 3 months and 29 days.)

Sam is the pre-pubescent embodiment of the single-minded passion for chess that H.G. Wells once described as "a desire that dieth not, and a fire that is not quenched."

He lives with his obsession, and his parents and younger sister in a modest, two-bedroom condominium near San Jose International Airport. A professional chess board sits on the coffee table in the small living room; chess books, in English and Russian, are stacked on the side tables.

Sam and Isabelle, 8, share a bed-

room with three single beds; one is for their grandmother, who often visits from Armenia. He keeps his favorite inspirational reading material on the bedside table: the fantasy adventure series "Percy Jackson & the Olympians," which features a 12-year-old demigod on a journey to prevent apocalyptic wars between three Greek gods.

In some ways, Sam is a typical kid. He rides his bike inside the gated condo complex and watches television when his parents allow it. ("Two and a Half Men" is a favorite).

Most afternoons, though, are devoted to homework and chess. "I never get

tired of playing chess," he said, "but I do get tired of studying it."

One afternoon before his rematch with David, Sam arrived home from school and immediately went into his parents' bedroom, where he sat down at the family computer. He logged onto a chess website, looking to challenge someone to a game of blitz chess.

In an official chess match, each player is allowed a set number of hours to make all his moves and six-hour games are not uncommon. In blitz chess, each player gets three to five minutes. Blitz chess games aren't official, but many players use them to hone their skills.

A 57-year-old international master from Serbia accepted Sam's invitation. Swiftly moving the pieces with his computer mouse, Sam finished off his opponent like an afternoon snack. "That felt good," he said.

Later, Sam logged onto a laptop on the kitchen table for a lesson, over Skype, with his coach, Andranik Matikozyan, 32, an international master who lives in Los Angeles. They practiced opening moves and went over exercises to prepare for the tournament.

Sam's father, Armen, 39, is a physicist with a doctorate from the Univer-

"Most kids just move the pieces quickly," Sevia said. "But Sam really studied the board. From the first moment I watched him play, I thought, 'there you go.'"

When Sam was 7, and playing a tournament in Santa Monica, he met Matikozyan. "I was amazed at how he was thinking 10, 15 moves ahead," the coach said.

This summer, Sam has been invited to a two-day master class with Kasparov in New York. In the fall, his father plans to take him to Brazil for the World Youth Championships, sponsored by the World Chess Federation. If Sam does well, he will earn more points toward his next goal, becoming an international master.

His mother, Armine, worries that her son sometimes spends too much time playing chess. "The thing is, though, he likes to play," she said. "Even in his free time, he goes to the computer and plays. I don't know ... he's not like other children."

■ ■ ■

Sam and his father made the drive on a Friday in March from their Bay Area home to the Agoura Hills Renaissance Hotel for the three-day Western Class Championships, a U.S. Chess Federation-sanctioned tournament on the professional circuit.

The field included about a dozen masters such as Sam, seven international masters and one grandmaster, the top chess rating, held by about 1,300 players worldwide. Also on hand were an army of less-accomplished players who aspire to become masters.

The first night, Sam played an international master to a draw, the match ending just before midnight. He slept nine hours in his hotel room, ate breakfast with his father and returned to the tables for the Saturday morning match with David Adelberg.

Their match see-sawed back and forth for several hours and seemed headed for a draw. But then Sam began introducing complications, the first of which was the move to sacrifice a bishop. David recognized it was a trap and declined to take it. Soon David made a small slip in defending his position, and Sam responded with an additional flurry of sacrificial moves, forcing David to part with his queen to avoid being checkmated.

After five more anguished moves, only a few minutes remained on each boy's clock. David grimly studied the board as the seconds ticked away. Finally, he turned his king on its side and reached across the board to shake Sam's hand.

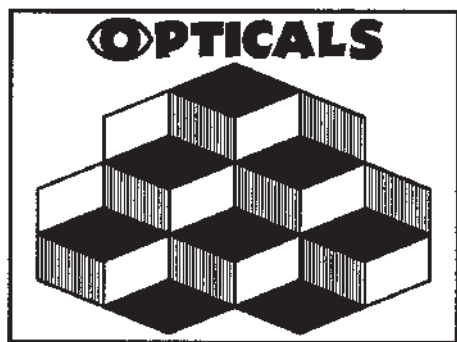
"Neither Andranik nor I really understood what he was up to at the time," Sam's father would say later. "When he showed us, we realized it was really a series of beautiful tactical combinations."

David's father, Dan Adelberg, an eye surgeon from Scottsdale, Ariz., later ascribed the loss to "one miscalculation, which certainly happens in many chess games."

In the hotel lobby, a few of Sam's young chess friends came by to offer congratulations.

"What do you want to do now?" his father said, suggesting they go to a nearby restaurant for buffalo wings and talk over the match.

Sam gave a thumbs-up sign.



AN EYE TEST! Look at the above drawing and count the number of cubes. Are there six, or seven?

Answer: Look at it long enough and you'll see both six and seven.



FIND THE HIDDEN CITY in this man's sentence.

Answer: The city is Toronto (... MOTOR ON TO ...)

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Bait, ball, bald, bell, bold, bond, bone.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



**BARN
BORN
BOON
BOOR
DOOR**

A BOVINE BAFFLER!

Try to solve these five Ladder Puzzles before Bossy finishes her evening meal. You are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word, so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed BARN to BOOR in four moves. See if you can change the following words in four moves each:

1. COOK to WARE
2. HAND to SOME
3. LAME to DUCK
4. MENU to FOOD
5. PARE to DOWN

Answers: 1. COOK, COAK, WORK, WORE, WARE. 2. HAND, SAND, SANE, SAME, SOME. 3. LAME, LACE, LACK, LUCK, DUCK. 4. MENU, MEND, FEND, FOND, FOOD. 5. PARE, DARE, DARN, DAWN, DOWN.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was French writer, artist and filmmaker Jean Cocteau who made the following sage observation: "The greatest masterpiece in literature is only a dictionary out of order."

■ If you were in or near Springfield, Mo., at the end of April, I hope you took the opportunity to attend a popular local festival: the Typewriter Toss. Every year on April 22—Administrative Professionals Day (also known as Secretaries Day), appropriately—a local radio station sponsors the event, in which contestants are raised in a lift truck to a height of 50 feet, then compete to see who can land a typewriter closest to the bull's-eye painted on the ground below.

■ Those who study such things say that sharks burp. Evidently it's a mechanism for regulating the depth at which they swim.

■ Technically speaking, the green pepper is a fruit.

■ In the early 20th century, a wealthy Russian living in Odessa died but had no children to inherit his estate. Instead, he left his 4-million ruble fortune to his four nieces. This may not seem unusual, but he did include an odd provision in his will: Each of the girls had to serve for one year as a farm girl, a washer-woman or a chambermaid before she saw any of the money. They did as the will instructed, and during that year of service each received hundreds of proposals of marriage.

■ The Sahara Desert is spreading southward at a rate of slightly less than one-third of a mile each year.

■ Showman Buffalo Bill Cody, one of the most flamboyant figures of the Old West, portrayed himself in five films.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "All the world's a stage, and most of us are desperately unheard."—Sean O'Casey

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MAGIC MAZE • WORDS WITH A DING

U S P M J H E B Y V T R Q Y Y
(H I D I N G) D O N G O E H L L
I G D B N Y G W G G T G G R P
M K I I F D B N Y N N N W G U
S Q D O M K I T I I I I D N F
D A B Z X W A U D D E D I I S
F Q O N L B J H R N L F N D D
C D I N G Z H O U A G I G O A
Y W V N T S C Q P N N N U A B
L K I I H C F E C B I Z S B Y
W D V N A H S G N I D G N I P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Accordingly Dingbat Dingle Hiding
Baoding Ding-dong Dingus Nanding
Bonding Dinger Dingzhou Pingdingshan
Building Dinghy Fading

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

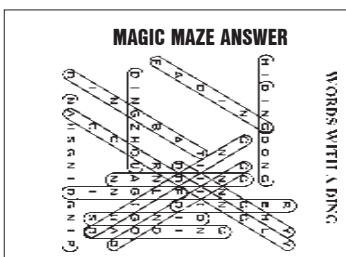
DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	—		×		28
×		+		÷	
	×		—		23
—		×		+	
	×		+		25
20		18		16	

1 2 3 4 6 7 7 8 9

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WORDS WITH A DING

GO FIGURE ANSWER

	16		18		20
25	8	+	2	×	8
	+		×		—
23	1	—	6	×	4
	÷		+		×
28	7	×	3	—	7

Are pets people, too?

A recent article in a British newspaper suggested that pet owners stop being called "owners" and start being called "parents." Why? Because pets are considered so much a part of the family that they shouldn't be considered property, the article suggested.

The trend toward treating a pet like ... well, practically another child ... isn't new, but it certainly is growing. According to Hartz Mountain Corp.'s recently released Hartz Trend Report, 47 percent of pet owners surveyed said their pet is like a child to them. Another 42 percent said their pet is comparable to a good friend.

There seem to be some real benefits to animals as this trend grows. Most prospective owners surveyed consider "personality" to be more important than a pet's pedigree. And a growing number have or are considering adopting their pet from a rescue society—60 percent said so in the survey.

These results don't necessarily mean that your local mall soon will be filled with "mommies" pushing their beloved Lab or Terrier around in a stroller (most self-respecting medium- to large-sized dogs wouldn't take that treatment any-



way). The people surveyed considered traits like loyalty and obedience to be important qualities.

So, what do you think? Is your dog or cat a part of the family, or something even more important—almost another child? Tell me your experience or opinion on the matter by emailing me at ask@pawscorner.com. Or, check out the informal poll on my website at www.pawscorner.com.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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Keeping kids busy when out and about

It's not by coincidence that busy stay-at-home mom of three Shannon Gleason frequently can be seen, kids in tow, hanging out with her friends in the neighborhood. "I'm in the middle of motherhood most of the time," she says, "but I also need a regular dose of womanhood. That happens when I plan get-togethers with other moms and their children at parks or informal coffee shops."

Sure, she and her friends talk about their kids over a mocha, but they also encourage one another to pursue what they want and desire for themselves. That might mean taking a closer look at their individual nutritional needs or setting up a personal exercise plan for the summer. "Plus, we have so

much light-hearted fun just being together!" she admits. "If I feel invigorated for my day, I make a better day for my family."

Shannon's 3- and 5-year-old daughters, Hazel and Tigerlily, benefit from the outings, too. Toting their favorite activities in a 1960s-era olive-green Samsonite train case with mirror that they scooped up at a garage sale, they busily join their best friends for their own "kids' time out" while their moms visit with one another.

Here are ideas to keep kids happy and busy when you're out and about.

1. Take along a bookbag filled with tracing paper, pencils, scissors and a picture book of things your child is interested in. For example, if your family is learning about birds in your backyard this spring, the kids can enjoy tracing and cutting out eagles, owls and other birds to play with.

2. Shannon drives a blue VW van that

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

they call the "Blueberry," and keeps it equipped with blankets and other items for an impromptu picnic. You might keep a hula hoop on hand and fill an athletic bag with T-shirts, stopwatch, whistle and a ball for fun at a park. Fill a tote or basket with other items that are kept only in the car, such as books, binoculars, car bingo, I-Spy game

and DVDs. Garage-sale season is a good time to stock up.

3. For waiting in lines, always have some paper in your purse to use for making paper airplanes. Don't

be surprised if others join you in the fun and show your kids a new fold or two.

4. Talk and sing with preschoolers and toddlers in the car on your way home from a get-together. When there's no silence between you, there's little room for whining.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Schwarzenegger puts acting career on hold



News media are shown outside the home believed to be the residence of a household staff member who mothered a child with former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Thursday, May 19, 2011, in Bakersfield, Calif.

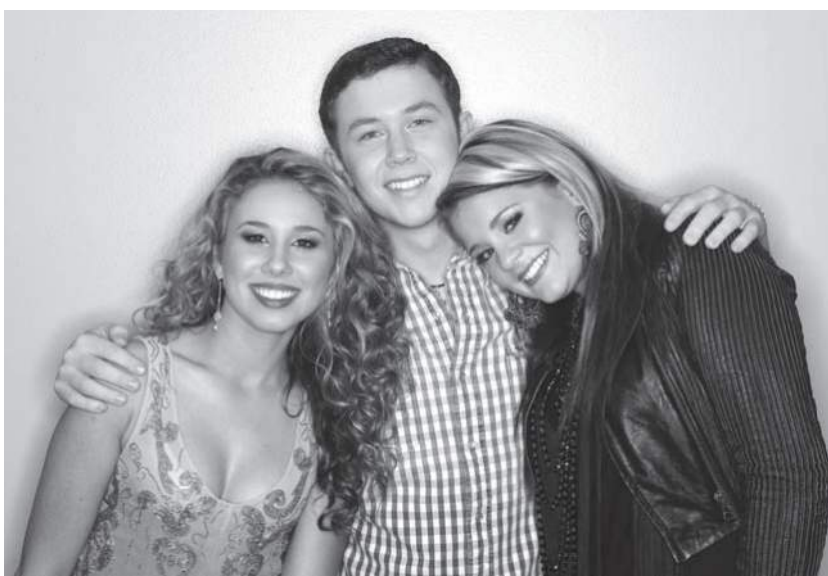
Last 'American Idol' finalist booted before finale

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"American Idol" finalist Haley Reinhart won't be growing on this season's final show-down. The bluesy 20-year-old vocalist from Wheeling, Ill., best known for her signature singing snarl, was revealed Thursday to have received the fewest viewer votes on the Fox talent contest, leaving deep-voiced 17-year-old singer Scotty McCreery of Garner, N.C., and soaring 16-year-old songbird Lauren Alaina of Rossville, Ga., to compete on next week's finale.

"I rocked it out, and I had a blast," Reinhart said after her elimination.

Reinhart had always seemed doomed on "Idol." Unlike her remaining rivals, cherubic country crooners McCreery and Alaina, the wavy-haired Reinhart had been less definable and garnered fewer votes, landing at the bottom as one of the show's low vote-getters four times after weak performances of such songs as LeAnn Rimes' "Blue" and Blondie's "Call Me."

This season's femme fatale found recent success by boldly tackling classic rock tunes. She earned a standing ovation from the judges two weeks ago for a rousing rendition of The Animals' version of "The House of the Rising Sun," and she was lauded again Wednesday for her performances of Fleetwood Mac's "Rhiannon" and Led



In this publicity image released by Fox, the final three contestants on the singing competition series, "American Idol," from left, Haley Reinhart, Scotty McCreery and Lauren Alaina, are shown on Thursday, May 12, 2011 in Los Angeles.

Zeppelin's "What Is and What Should Never Be."

It was apparently too little, too late for Reinhart after 95 million viewer votes were cast Wednesday. While she was finding her groove throughout the finals, McCreery and Alaina had been delivering consistent country and pop performances since their attention-grabbing auditions. McCreery never appeared at the bottom, and Alaina

only did once two weeks ago.

The duo will face off Tuesday, with the 10th season "Idol" champion crowned on Wednesday. It will mark the youngest finale matchup in "Idol" history. Producers lowered the minimum age requirement to 15 years old this season, which allowed Alaina, who's been compared to fourth season "Idol" winner Carrie Underwood, the chance to audition last year.

Photos of Beatles' 1st US concert to be auctioned

NEW YORK (AP)—It was 1964. Beatlemania ruled. Two days after their momentous debut on "The Ed Sullivan Show," the Fab Four boarded a train from New York for Washington, D.C., for their first U.S. concert. An enterprising 18-year-old Mike Mitchell was there, a press pass in hand, shooting photographs just feet away and even jumping onto the stage for the group's brief pre-concert press call.

Forty-seven years later, Mitchell has made 50 silver gelatin prints from his negatives of the event and the Beatles' Sept. 3, 1964, performance at the Baltimore Civic Center. He's offering them for sale at Christie's New York auction house on July 20. The total pre-sale estimate is \$100,000; the images will be sold individually.

Mitchell laughs when he describes the scene at the indoor arena that night—not only of screaming fans but also of his unrestricted access to the stage. No cordoned-off media pens, no tight security.

"It was a long time ago. Things weren't that way then," the 55-year-old said in a telephone interview from Washington, where he lives and works as an art photographer. "It was as low-tech as the concert itself. The concert was in a sports venue and the sound system was the sound system of a sports venue."

Equally astonishing is how few other photographs from that first concert exist. Simeon Lipman, head of Christie's pop culture department, said it's not clear why, but he said Mitchell's black

and white photographs were remarkable for their quality.

"They're very close-up, very animated. The light is very interesting. They're very intimate shots," Lipman said.

In addition, Beatlemania was at its peak, so much so that the Beatles stopped performing live in 1966—their last concert was in Candlestick Park in San Francisco—"because they couldn't hear themselves sing. The girls were so hysterical," Lipman noted.

Mitchell stored the negatives all these years in a box in the basement of his home. For the silver gelatin prints in the auction, he used digital technology to do "much better 'darkroom' work that could ever have been done in a traditional darkroom."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger delayed his Hollywood comeback Thursday as he braced for what could be a costly divorce prompted by revelations that he had an affair and child with a housekeeper who worked for his family for 20 years.

The former "Terminator" star told his talent agency to postpone all his movie projects that are currently under way or being negotiated until further notice, a statement from Schwarzenegger's office said.

"Gov. Schwarzenegger is focusing on personal matters and is not willing to commit to any production schedules or timelines," the statement said.

Instead of another film, the actor could be starring in a big-money divorce case that will stand out even in a city that has seen its share of made-for-the-tabloids matrimonial splits.

His wife, Maria Shriver, the Kennedy heiress and former network TV anchor, stands to cash in big-time financially, according to prominent divorce attorneys.

Although California is a no-fault divorce state, meaning her husband's acknowledged philandering technically can't be used against him in court, the reality, attorneys say, is that it will be.

"Every judge would know about what happened, and I think would hold it against him," said attorney Robert Nachshin, who has represented the ex-wives of a who's who of entertainers that includes Will Smith, Rod Stewart and John Ritter. "Judges are human beings, and Maria will definitely be the sympathetic spouse."

Based on his experience, Nachshin said, Shriver should expect to receive at least \$100,000 a month in spousal sup-

port and, with three children under the age of 18, probably another \$40,000 or more a month in child support.

Then there's the division of the couple's property, including the Brentwood mansion that Shriver and her children moved from earlier this year.

Nachshin said that could be affected by a prenuptial agreement, if the couple signed one when they were married in 1985. Many such agreements call for people to keep what would otherwise be joint assets separate after marriage.

Shriver won the sympathy vote when Schwarzenegger revealed this week he had fathered a now 13-year-old son with the housekeeper and didn't tell his wife about the boy until earlier this year.

"It seems to me that he has gratuitously embarrassed her. This should greatly enhance settlement negotiations," said Atlanta attorney John Mayo, who has represented Chris Rock in a paternity suit, baseball star David Justice in his split with actress Halle Berry, and other celebrities.

Still, the most surprising thing about the case, the attorneys said, is the public found out.

"In my experience what Arnold did is not unusual," said Nachshin, who has represented clients who hid the existence of children from their wives and others.

The boy's mother, who has been identified as Mildred Patricia Baena of Bakersfield by The New York Times and other media, has vanished since her name became public Wednesday. The Associated Press has not independently verified that she is the mother of Schwarzenegger's child.

Schwarzenegger's office has declined to discuss whether Baena is the mother of the boy.

Katie Couric ends her run at CBS News

NEW YORK (AP)—Katie Couric signed off as "CBS Evening News" anchor for the last time on Thursday, thanking viewers for "coming along with me on this incredible journey."

The first woman chosen to solely anchor a network evening newscast left on a high note, interviewing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and leading the broadcast with an exclusive "60 Minutes" investigation on new doping accusations against cyclist Lance Armstrong.

Her next destination is likely to be ABC, where she has talked with executives about doing a daytime talk show and some work at the news division. But she has made no announcement about her future plans.

After several years at No. 3 in the evening ratings behind NBC and ABC, the Tiffany network had high hopes in 2006 when it convinced Couric to leave NBC's "Today" show and take over the anchor role. There was an initial burst of interest, but viewers rejected efforts at changing a news format that has lasted decades, and the broadcast slid back to third.

Couric's newscast won awards, and she drew attention with newsmaker interviews like a 2008 conversation with

Sarah Palin, but it could never escape the cellar. The format also proved restrictive to Couric, who told former "Today" colleague Matt Lauer in an interview last month that "it might be nice to have a little more wiggle room for me to show a little more personality."

For her final newscast, she presented "five years in five minutes," with images flashing by of major stories she

had covered and people she had interviewed—Presidents Bush and Obama, hero pilot Chesley Sullenberger, actor Clint Eastwood and baseball steroids user Alex Rodriguez and Palin.

"It's been an extraordinary privilege to sit in this chair and a real honor to work with so many talented people at CBS News," Couric said.

Scott Pelley will replace her as the regular anchor, starting June 6.

While the broadcast offered a look back at Couric's tenure, it also gave a look ahead to some changes CBS News management has been seeking. New CBS News Chairman Jeff Fager, executive producer of "60 Minutes," has talked about better showcasing the news division's work, and Couric's last newscast led by previewing a report on Armstrong that Pelley will air on Sunday.



Couric

Sarah Palin's son weds high school sweetheart

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Track Palin, the oldest child of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, has married.

Palin, 22, recently married his high school sweetheart, 21-year-old Britta Hanson, People magazine reported Thursday.

"Yes, they did & we couldn't be any more blessed!" Sarah Palin tweeted Thursday afternoon.

The Palin family attorney, John Tiemessen in Fairbanks, confirmed the marriage in an e-mail to The Associated Press

but could provide no additional details.

The ceremony was held in scenic Hatcher Pass, a mountain pass through the Talkeetna Mountains not far from the Palin's home in Wasilla. The newlyweds plan a larger wedding celebration next winter at Alyeska Ski Resort south of Anchorage when family and friends from out of state can travel north.

Track Palin is an Army re-



Palin

servist. He spent a year deployed in Iraq with the Army. When his mother was the GOP vice presidential candidate in 2008, she spoke at her son's deployment ceremony in Fairbanks, one of the few trips back to Alaska while on the campaign trail that fall.

Track Palin enlisted in the Army on the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. After the commercial

fishing season, he plans to take courses at the University of Alaska.

Hanson is a University of Alaska nursing student. She's the daughter of Rev. Duane and Elizabeth Hanson, People reported.

Sarah Palin and her husband, Todd, have four other children and one grandchild.

Kate Gosselin ordered to pay Pa. counselor \$10K

HAZLETON, Pa. (AP)—A northeastern Pennsylvania judge says reality TV star Kate Gosselin must pay a local marriage therapist more than \$10,000 in a dispute over counseling.



Gosselin

Sylvia Lafair contends she flew to Los Angeles at Gosselin's request to counsel her and then-husband Jon Gosselin in March 2009.

The pair starred in "Jon and Kate Plus 8" before divorcing.

Lafair sued last year after Kate Gosselin didn't pay for the services or travel.

Gosselin testified last week that she never had a contract with Lafair, who heads Creative Energy Options in White Haven, Pa. Gosselin lives about 50 miles away in Sinking Spring.

Magisterial District Judge Gerald Feissner ruled May 13 that Gosselin must pay Lafair's company about \$10,300.

Gosselin's attorney tells The Standard-Speaker of Hazleton that he appealed on Tuesday.

Guest dreads the surprise at friend's birthday party

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I will be attending a milestone birthday party for a friend of his. The fiancée of the birthday guy stated on the invitation, "There will be a surprise during the evening." It has been suggested that a stripper "may" be the surprise.

Abby, I realize this might be OK for some people and it's just for fun, but I'd be uncomfortable if this happens.

My boyfriend knows my feelings, but I don't know if we would risk being ridiculed if we left the party. What should I do if I find myself in this situation?

HATE TO BE A PARTY-POOPER

DEAR "PARTY-POOPER": Contact the birthday guy's fiancée and ask if what you heard is true. If it is, spare yourself the embarrassment and have your boyfriend attend the party without you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When someone has a serious illness or major surgery, everyone thinks to bring food, which is lovely. But I have a better idea.

When my friend, who has a young family, was diagnosed with breast cancer, I offered to do her laundry. Her recovery was slow, and the chemo and radiation therapies endless. Three years later, we're nearing the end of a short and brave life, and I still do their laundry every week. It has been a help to her, and I have grown closer to her and her family. When she's gone, I will never again do a load of wash without thinking of her.

Perhaps your readers can help another family this way.

THE LAUNDRY FAIRY, ROCHESTER, MINN.

DEAR LAUNDRY FAIRY: The support you have given to that family extends far beyond doing laundry. Your presence over the long haul has, I'm sure, meant much more. Read on for a view from the perspective of a caregiver:

DEAR ABBY: My wife has dementia. Our children don't live close by, so I'm her only caregiver. One afternoon a week I hire someone to stay with her so I can grocery shop, do banking and run necessary errands. Neighbors and friends over the years have offered the standard, "If I can do anything to help, let me know," but I'm not the type to call and ask, although it would be wonderful to have more hours to myself to do things in a leisurely manner rather than like running a marathon.

I know people are busy, but it would be great if some of those who offered help would call occasionally, tell me they have an afternoon or evening free (or even an hour or two) and give me a little breathing room.

I don't begrudge one moment of the time I have spent caring for my wife. She has, for 50 years, been a marvelous wife, a wonderful mother and the center of our family. Whatever I do for her can never repay the comfort, strength and joy she has brought into my life. But I cried (privately) on Christmas Day after the family had finished our gift exchange, because I had no time to go and buy her a gift.

Please advise your readers that if the offer of help they extend is real, to please check their schedules, find some time they are willing to give, CALL that friend, neighbor or relative and offer to sit with their loved one. That thoughtful gesture will be appreciated beyond what they could possibly ever imagine.

A FRIEND OF YOURS

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Filming begins on Nolan's 'The Dark Knight Rises'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Writer-director Christopher Nolan has called "Action!" on his latest Batman film.

Warner Bros. Pictures says principal photography began this week on "The Dark Knight Rises," the conclusion to Nolan's Batman trilogy.

The film will be shot in India, England, Scotland and the American cities of New York, Los Angeles and Pittsburgh.

Christian Bale returns as Bruce Wayne and Batman. Michael Caine, Gary Oldman and Morgan Freeman are also returning to the cast. Newcomers for the third installment in the franchise include Anne Hathaway, Marion Cotillard,



AP

In this undated file image released by Warner Bros., Christian Bale is shown as Batman in a scene from "The Dark Knight."

Tom Hardy and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

Gordon-Levitt, Hardy and Cotillard also appeared in Nolan's 2010 film "Inception."

"The Dark Knight Rises" is slated for release on July 20, 2012.

Elton John dedicates AIDS benefit to Liz Taylor

CAP D'ANTIBES, France (AP)—Elton John has dedicated an AIDS benefit dinner to the late American actress Elizabeth Taylor, an early pioneer in the fight against the disease.

John has called Taylor a "force of nature" and pledged she'll remain the star-studded charity event's "guiding star."

Taylor died in March.

Celebrities from the film and fashion worlds, as well as the realm inhabited by solely by the extremely wealthy, flocked to the amfAR dinner and auction, held Thursday at the Hotel du Cap in the Cap d'Antibes.

A-listers included Sean Penn, Kanye West, Karl Lagerfeld,

Kristen Dunst and Cannes Film Festival jury members Uma Thurman and jury president Robert De Niro.

The star-studded event coincided with the prestigious French Riviera cinema showcase.

The international nonprofit organization amfAR is dedicated to the battle against AIDS.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Musical of 'Sleepless in Seattle' to hit Calif.

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—A musical based on the romantic comedy film "Sleepless in Seattle" is set to debut next year far from Seattle or New York. The Pasadena Playhouse in California said Thursday it will host the premiere of the show beginning June 12, 2012. It will have a book by Jeff Arch, who wrote the film's original story and co-wrote the screenplay. The musical will be a retelling of the 1993 film that starred Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan and was directed by Nora Ephron. The stage version will have music and lyrics by Michelle Citrin, Michael Garin and Josh Nelson. Joel Zwick will direct. The Playhouse is enjoying much success on Broadway right now, with two productions—"Sister Act" and "Baby It's You!"—that it helped nurture.

Latin Grammys to return to Las Vegas for 2011 show

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The Latin Grammys are returning to Sin City. The Latin Recording

Academy announced Thursday that the awards show will once again be held at the Mandalay Bay Events Center on the Las Vegas Strip. The 12th annual show is scheduled for Nov. 10. Univision will continue to broadcast the show live. Nominations will be announced Sept. 14 in Los Angeles. The awards show has consecutively been held in Las Vegas since 2009.

Allman Brothers Band's Gregg Allman has book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Welcome the latest rock star to the memoir club: Gregg Allman. A founding member of the Allman Brothers Band, Allman has a book deal with William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. Morrow announced Thursday that the "unflinching" memoir, currently untitled, would come out in the spring of 2012. The Allman Brothers are one of Southern rock's greatest bands and are known for such classics as "Whipping Post" and "Ramblin' Man." Allman, a singer, songwriter, guitar-

ist and keyboard player, will write about everything from the death of his brother, Duane; to his brief marriage to Cher to his drug and alcohol problems. Memoirs have come recently from fellow rock stars Keith Richards, Steven Tyler and Sammy Hagar.

'Sully' Sullenberger taking to the air at CBS News

NEW YORK (AP)—The pilot who safely brought down that plane in the Hudson River has landed at CBS News. The network announced Thursday that Captain Chesley Sullenberger III, also known as Sully, has been named as Aviation and Safety Expert. In his new role, Sullenberger will provide analysis of aviation safety, contributing to all CBS News broadcasts and platforms. CBS News president David Rhodes said, "Sully is a genuine hero." It was on Jan. 15, 2009, that Sullenberger and his crew safely guided US Airways Flight 1549 to an emergency water landing in New York's frigid Hudson

River. His quick response to the loss of two of the plane's engines saved the lives of all 155 people aboard. Logging 20,000 hours of flight service, Sullenberger retired from US Airways in March 2010.

'Buffy' star Gellar gets new CW series

NEW YORK (AP)—The CW network said Thursday it is giving new series to Sarah Michelle Gellar and Rachel Bilson next season, and bidding farewell to "One Tree Hill." Gellar's "Ringer" was a gift from CBS. The larger network made the pilot but could find no room on its schedule, so CBS gave its corporate sister this series where the former "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" star impersonates her twin sister because she's on the run from danger. The CW also said Thursday that Bilson, who was in "The O.C.," will portray a New Yorker practicing medicine in a small Southern Town in "Hart of Dixie." "One Tree Hill" will air 13 final episodes starting next winter, the CW said.

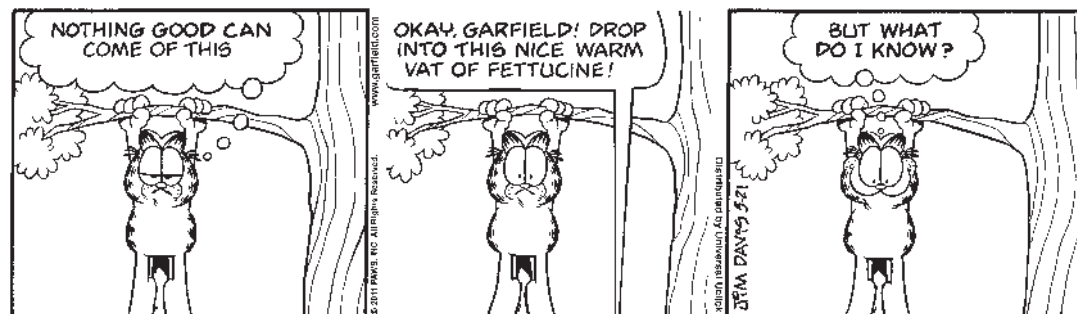
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

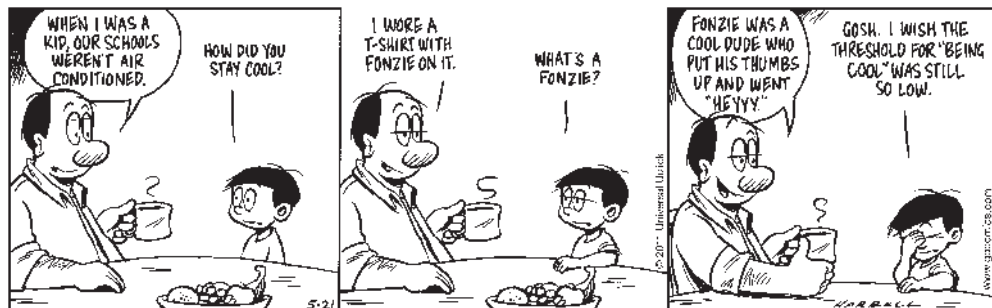


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Rude person
6 Bloodhound's clue
11 His work was done by Friday
12 Medics, often
14 Boston newspaper
15 Brave
16 Listener
17 Lounges
19 Figure head? (Abbr.)
20 H, H, H
22 Born
23 Geezer
24 Detox site
26 Plateaus
28 Chocolate pooch
30 Apiece
31 Booze
35 Teeny bits
39 Crazy one

DOWN

1 Make
2 "Yippee!"
3 "Born in the —"
4 Frank holder
5 Enticed (Var.)
6 Drag
7 Poolroom supply
8 Mess
9 Erstwhile liberal
10 Camera stand
11 2-Down, e.g.
13 Sings like Ella
18 Romanian money
21 Beauty parlor
23 Chocolate substitute
25 "Phooey!"
27 Mainlander's memento
29 Ossicle
31 Bali "hi"
32 Also-rans
33 Rather's successor
34 Court call
36 — l'oeil (optical illusion)
37 Goes over the books
38 Undoes a dele
41 Longed
44 Quick
45 Wife of Zeus
48 Halloween shout
50 Piratic potation

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fairuz Balk, 37; Lisa Edelstein, 45; Nick Cassavetes, 52; Judge Reinhold, 54

Happy Birthday: Overreacting, overdoing and overindulging will all lead to a false sense of who you are and what you can do. Instead, focus on keeping things simple, moderate and within your means and you will find your comfort zone and achieve your goals. Discipline, hard work and putting your skills to good use will lead to success. Your numbers are 2, 10, 13, 21, 27, 33, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't bite off more than you can handle. Someone will complain if you fall short of a promise made. Refuse to let someone else's indecisiveness cause you to procrastinate. Change is necessary if you want to move forward. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be able to set plans in motion in order to achieve some of your personal goals. Romance is highlighted and greater involvement with people who have similar interests should be your plans. Communication will clear up uncertainty. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep a clear head when dealing with people who can influence your life personally or professionally. Hear what others have to say before drawing a conclusion. Good insight will help you determine what to do next. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll tend to overspend. Offer your time and encouragement, nothing more. Hands-on help will bring you far greater returns in terms of who you meet and what you receive in return. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful how you deal with the people around you. Expect someone to fight back if you aren't accommodating. You may want to make a change but some of the people who are influenced by what you do will not be sure you are doing the right thing. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't get emotional, get moving. There is so much you can accomplish if you put your mind to it. You deserve some time to invest in yourself mentally, physically or emotionally. Love is on the rise and a spectacular evening should be planned. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take things one step at a time. A money venture may be enticing but is probably not the best thing for you to get involved in, given your current financial situation. Instead, make a long-term investment. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can sort through any relationship problems you've been facing by being honest about the way you feel. Once you have shared your thoughts, you will get a better idea where you stand. Take a different approach to whatever problems arise. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It may be the weekend but there is work to be done. Your hands-on help and ability to complete tasks will make a good impression. Mixing business with pleasure is a good way to accomplish things. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): With a little time and effort you can get your place in tip-top shape. Whether it's buying, sell-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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ing or just making a residential change, your choice will best suit your needs. A personal relationship will benefit from changes you make. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful what you say and to whom you reveal personal information. A relationship you are in will be difficult, especially if you cannot agree on what needs to be done. Don't limit your options. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do your best to help old friends or to take on a responsibility that will ease someone's stress. Your original and inventive way of taking care of matters will turn out better than anticipated. You have something to offer that can turn into a moneymaker. ****

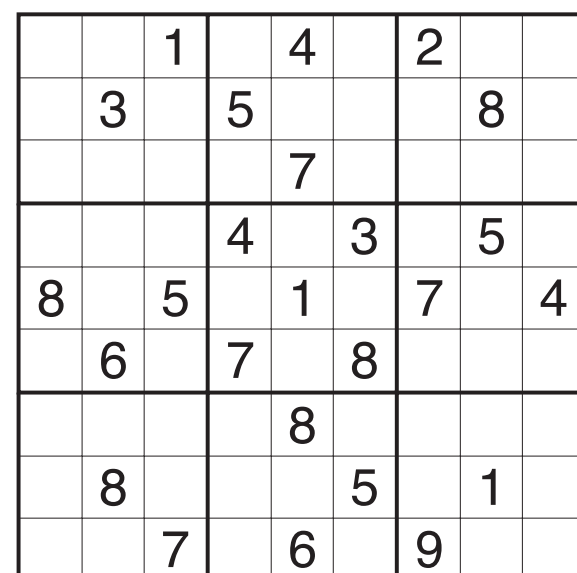
Birthday Baby: You are a strong competitor. You will stand alone, lead a group or become a team player -- whatever the situation requires.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

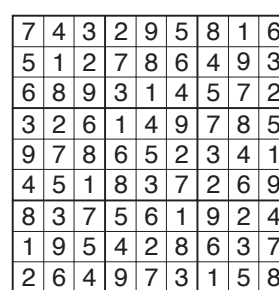
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/21

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King Features service, NYC.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORDS. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

A STEP FORWARD

Solution: 7 letters



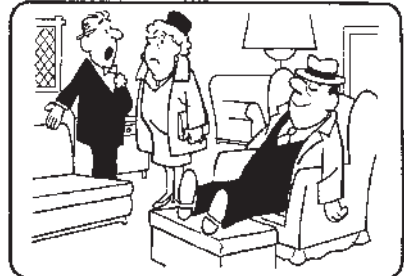
©2011 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 5/21

Accelerate, Achieve, Administrative, Advance, Ahead, Alternative, Ambition, Award, Career, Challenge, Confidence, Evolve, Expand, Financial, Fortune, Freedom, Goals, Government, Grow, Guide, Imagination, Implementation, Intent, Learn, Mend, Movements, Prospects, Relations, Risk, Stage, Straight, Stride, Transform, Vision

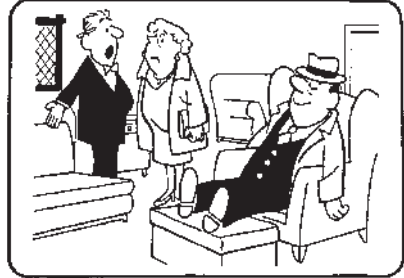
Yesterday's Answer: Catastrophe

To solve the puzzles, visit www.wonderword.com. For more puzzles, visit www.wonderword.com. For more puzzles, visit www.wonderword.com. For more puzzles, visit www.wonderword.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



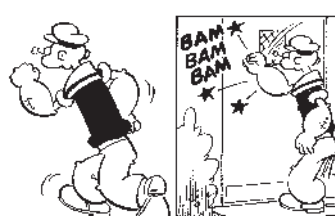
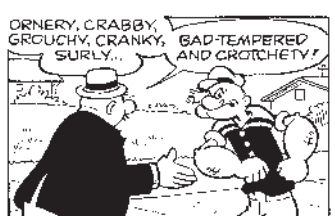
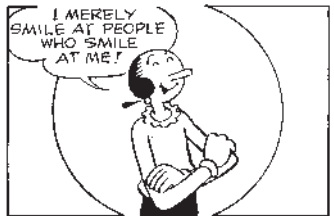
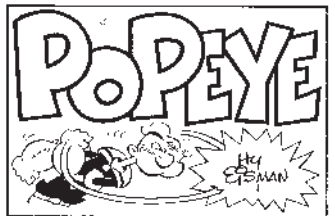
Differences: 1. Woman's hat is gone. 2. Window trim is black. 3. Salomon's bookend is missing. 4. Lamp is gone. 5. Man's jacket has buttons. 6. Chair's tuft is gone.

Wishing Well®

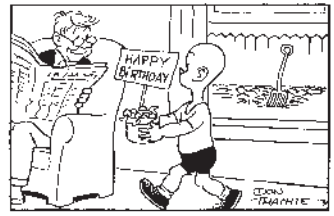
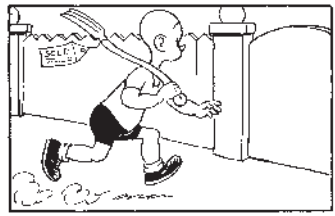
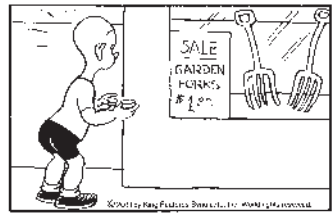
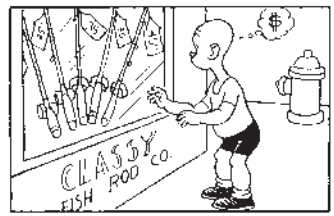
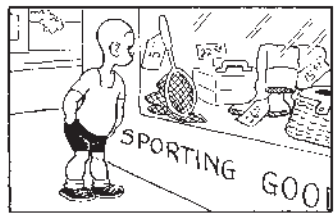
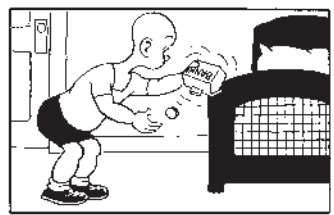
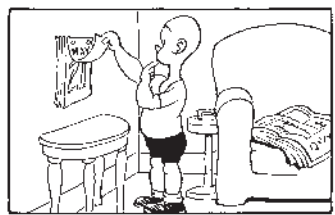
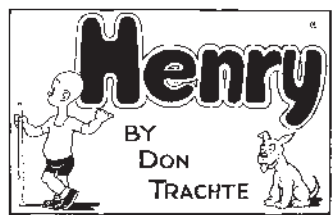
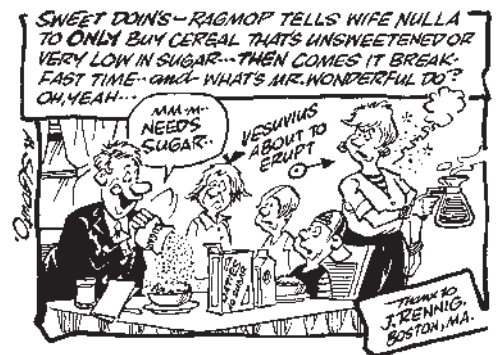
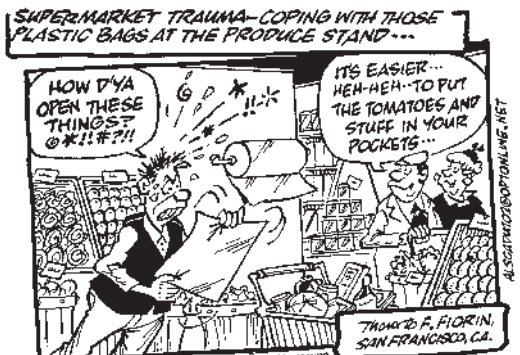
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A	E	I	H	T	E	O	I	Y	S	V	D	
4	7	3	2	3	5	7	3	4	6	7	3	4
E	C	E	P	A	F	O	T	Y	E	U	T	O
6	3	6	2	6	3	2	7	3	6	4	8	2
C	I	K	E	I	T	N	R	U	T	U	A	D
8	2	3	8	4	5	2	3	7	2	5	8	4
D	O	D	V	R	R	N	E	A	O	O	I	M
2	5	4	8	4	8	5	7	2	4	6	2	7
T	M	I	C	N	E	M	G	H	D	T	E	
6	5	2	6	2	5	6	7	6	5	7	7	
W	U	R	I	S	S	C	I	O	E	C	U	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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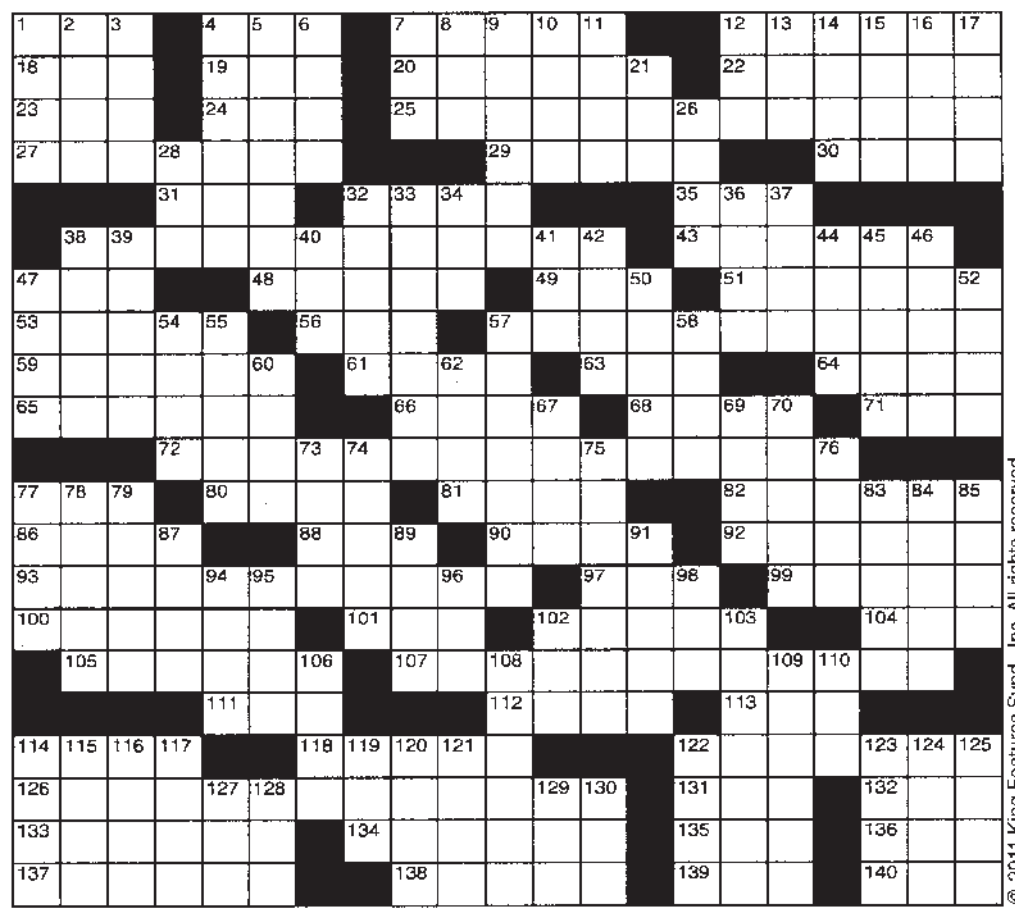


They'll Do It Every Time by Al Scaduto



Super Crossword ANIMAL TAILS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Messina or Momson
 - 4 Address abbr.
 - 7 Pass into law
 - 12 Pillager
 - 18 Vein contents
 - 19 Historic org.
 - 20 Mideastern mall?
 - 22 Herbivorous reptile
 - 23 Stocking shade
 - 24 Indefinite pronoun
 - 25 Benjamin Bunny's creator
 - 27 Theologian Thomas
 - 29 Director Sergio
 - 30 Lumberjack tools
 - 31 Rocker Ocasek
 - 32 "God's Little" (58 film)
 - 35 Wordless greeting
 - 38 Musical medium
 - 43 Dolls up
 - 47 "Whether -- nobler in the mind..."
 - 48 Groom's gangplank?
 - 49 He'll give you a squeeze
 - 51 Baltimore
 - 53 Maestro Leinsdorf
 - 56 Slippery character?
 - 57 Source of ills
 - 59 Like King's fans
 - 61 "Ritorna vincitori" singer
 - 63 Mr. Mineo
 - 64 Military chapeau
 - 65 Uruguayan title
 - 66 Adjusts an alarm
 - 68 Undiluted
 - 71 Provide rooms
 - 72 Software
 - 77 Duval's org.
 - 80 Mailer's "The -- Park"
 - 81 Stick in the mud
 - 82 Daze
 - 86 Marineland performer
 - 88 "The -- Daba Honeymoon" (14 song)
 - 90 Court order?
 - 92 Compensation
 - 93 Genesis peak
 - 97 After taxes
 - 99 Ravi-shing instrument?
 - 100 Scott role
 - 101 Mil. base
 - 102 Stanted
 - 104 Expert
 - 105 Doesn't have
 - 107 Myron Floren's boss
 - 111 Stroke's implement
 - 112 Seldom seen
 - 113 Joan Van --
 - 114 Blind part
 - 118 Emit
 - 122 Spock's specialty
 - 126 "Roseanne" actress
 - 131 Pabulum variety
 - 132 Conduit fitting
 - 133 Stang or Schwarz-enegger
 - 134 Author Collins
 - 135 Buckingham (Abbr.)
 - 136 Spider's snare
 - 137 Tangled
 - 138 Gravel-voiced for Capri
 - 139 Enco for
 - 140 Boot part
 - 7 Subside
 - 8 Rob Roy's refusal
 - 9 Showy shrub
 - 10 Blanchett of "Elizabeth"
 - 11 Starch source
 - 12 Bigwig
 - 13 Give it -- (try)
 - 14 '87 Streisand film
 - 15 Base stuff?
 - 16 -- Leaf (71 film)
 - 17 Urch of Metallica
 - 21 -- Tin Tin
 - 26 Lucy
 - 28 April initials
 - 32 Perplexed
 - 33 Ma, for one
 - 34 Hwy.
 - 36 Smell
 - 37 "David Copperfield" character
 - 38 She brought out the beast in men
 - 39 Oriental
 - 40 Equal an opponent
 - 41 Cops' org.
 - 42 Forever, so to speak
 - 44 Jeopardize
 - 45 Dynamite philanthropist?
 - 46 Stowe sight
 - 47 Hardy heroine
 - 50 Hersey
 - 52 Way out
 - 54 Gator's cousin
 - 55 "Salome" role
 - 57 Hale or Revere
 - 58 First name in fashion
 - 60 Knight's better half?
 - 62 Believe
 - 67 Nimble
 - 69 Part of MA
 - 70 Gogol's "Bulba"
 - 73 Compote component
 - 74 Metropolitan
 - 75 End a space flight
 - 76 French Sudan, today
 - 77 Ostentation
 - 78 React to a pun
 - 79 Intense
 - 83 South African province
 - 84 Pottery defect
 - 85 Thornfield governess
 - 87 Poker stake
 - 89 Inland sea
 - 91 Notre Dame's river
 - 94 Fuss
 - 95 Moflo or Magnani
 - 96 Fit -- fiddle
 - 98 RN's
 - 102 Coach Parseghian
 - 103 4 p.m. vehicle?
 - 106 In good shape
 - 108 Inflicts
 - 109 Twist and turn
 - 110 Scrape by, with "out"
 - 114 Act like a wrestler
 - 115 -- Flynn Boyle
 - 116 Em or Bee
 - 117 Jogger's gait
 - 119 Emulate
 - 120 Recipe instruction
 - 121 West Coast sch.
 - 122 London district
 - 123 Salamander
 - 124 "The People's Choice" pooch
 - 125 Czech river
 - 127 -- de France
 - 128 Hall of Farmer
 - 129 Roush
 - 129 Mouth piece?
 - 130 Enchanted
- DOWN**
- 1 Spanish dance
 - 2 Tigris
 - 3 Computer selection list
 - 4 Classical hunk?
 - 5 Cure-all
 - 6 Very, in Versailles



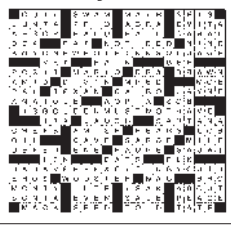
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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. HISTORY: Whom did William the Conqueror defeat at the Battle of Hastings?
- 2. LITERATURE: What was William Faulkner's native state and the setting for his novels?
- 3. COMMON KNOWLEDGE: What does the Geneva cross

- symbolize?
- 4. ANATOMY: What is another name for totipalmate feet?
- 5. GAMES: What game piece in chess looks like a castle tower?
- 6. LANGUAGE: What is mean-
- ing of "E pluribus unum"?
- 7. POETRY: Who wrote the words, "God's in his heaven/ All's right with the world"?
- 8. ART: For what type of work was the 16th century artist Titian best known?
- 9. GEOGRAPHY: Where is Mount Vesuvius?
- 10. MEDICINE: What is an analgesic drug designed to do?

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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AT IT!**

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2003 Ford - 15 passengers Van
Asking price \$6,800.00 • Tel: 483-4098
Split Type air-con for sale
Used for 3 months only

Garage Sale

Saturday, May 21, 2011
Baby things, Toys and much more
8 am at Tagan-Tagan Drive across
Botanical Garden (follow signs)

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/
24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi &
ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA
applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/
students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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cimsaipan@gmail.com

WHATZIT Solution: Greenhouse gases

Saipan Tribune Sports
36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 32

Minor wins doubles in Australia
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Reporter
Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.
Minor teamed up with fellow Pacific Islands member Amanda Korinihe in the doubles event.
Curtis-McDonald Wednesday

Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame

Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts

Reporter's Notebook
By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Editor
WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Weather Channel predicted near-freezing weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in. What D.C. got was a blindingly sunny day, with hardly a cloud to mar the cobalt blue sky.
In fact, it was chillier inside the Capitol, when outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was preparing to hand over the gavel to the new speaker, John Boehner (R-Ohio). When Pelosi began enumerating the accomplishments of the 111th Congress under her leadership, the frosty silence emanating from the Republican side of the House was enough to cause icicles to form on the ceiling. The GOP, after all, campaigned—and won—on a platform of what the Democrats

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Durant, Harden lead Thunder past Mavs; series tied



DALLAS (AP)—James Harden, Eric Maynor, Nick Collison and Daequan Cook did something Kobe Bryant and the Lakers couldn't do—make big plays down the stretch to hold off Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks.

The four Oklahoma City reserves teamed with Kevin Durant to turn a slim lead into a big one in the fourth quarter, riding it to a 106-100 victory Thursday night that knotted the Western Conference finals at one game each.

"We had a good start to the fourth quarter," Durant said. "You can't mess that chemistry up. Coach made a good decision by doing that."

The Thunder got going in the closing seconds of the third quarter, when Harden made a four-point play that put Oklahoma City up by one. Coach Scott Brooks then sent out four backups and his superstar for the final period, asking them to protect that lead.

They built on it from the start, never letting Dallas go back ahead. After a few tight minutes, the Thunder broke the game open with a 14-5 spurt capped by Harden hitting a tough jumper near the foul line. It put Oklahoma City up by 10 with 3:15 left, prompting a big scream from the bearded guard and a timeout from the Mavericks.

In the sweep of Los Angeles, Dallas pulled out two games with fourth-quarter rallies. This time, the Mavs could only get within four points on the way to ending a seven-game winning



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots in front of Dallas Mavericks' Jason Kidd during the first half of Game 2 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals Thursday, May 19, 2011, in Dallas.

streak and falling to 6-1 at home in the playoffs.

"Their reserves came out swinging and really took it to us," Nowitzki said. "We were never really ready for their reserves."

Like the Eastern Conference finals, the series is essentially starting over as it moves to a new site. These teams are only going about 200 miles up Interstate 35 for Game 3 on Sat-

urday night.

"It should be fun back at our place," Durant said.

In Game 1, Dallas' reserves outscored Oklahoma City's 53-22. In Game 2, the Thunder won the battle of the backups 50-29.

Harden scored 23 points. Maynor finished with 13, Cook eight and Collison six. Maynor handled the point guard duties that usually belong to Russell Westbrook. The All-Star had a poor opener, but actually was pretty good through three quarters; it's just that the bench was rolling.

"It was tremendous," said Harden, who made 4 of 5 shots, including two 3-pointers, for 10 points in the fourth quarter. "Eric made some great plays. Daequan made some big shots. Kevin did what he did. Nick played some great defense. I just tried to find my spots and make shots as well."

Oklahoma City's backups first made their mark in the second quarter, turning an early deficit into a five-point lead. With Durant cheering them on from the bench, the reserves had a stretch where they scored on 10 straight possessions.

"We've got 10 guys that can play," Collison said. "We don't lose confidence when other guys are in the game."

Durant still led the Thunder with 24 points. DeShawn Stevenson and Jason Kidd made things a lot tougher for him than in the opener, when he scored 40, but he was still spectacular at times. He had a first-quarter dunk that's worth going to YouTube to see again and again, and a

behind-the-back dribble to clear space for another key basket in the third quarter.

Westbrook scored 18 points, making 7 of 15 shots.

The Thunder shot 56 percent from the field, and again showed how much their youth and athleticism can hurt the older, slower Mavericks. Dallas came into this series not having allowed more than 97 points in any playoff game, and Oklahoma City has shattered that in both games.

"The defensive end is what we've got to solve," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "Scoring 100 points in a playoff game should be enough to win. Not if you're giving up 106, 112. Give them credit. They played an attacking, desperate game. Their bench was dominant when they played."

Nowitzki went from scoring 48 in the opener to having only 13 points through three quarters. He didn't even score in the third period, taking just two shots in nearly 9 minutes. He scored 16 in the fourth quarter to finish with 29. He was still efficient, making 10 of 17 shots, but he had to earn everything, with bodies flying at him before and during every possession. The Thunder also got physical without drawing many fouls. The big German took only 10 free throws, down from 24 in the opener. He even missed one, and it was a biggie—part of a series of three shots with 36.7 seconds left. It could have put the Mavericks within three.

"I think we did a better job of making his catches a little tougher," Collison said. "We

didn't use our hands as much. We wanted to challenge his shots and hope he missed them."

Tyson Chandler had 15 points and 13 rebounds, and Jason Kidd added 14 points and seven assists for Dallas. In the slowed output from the bench, J.J. Barea scored 11 points, and Jason Terry and Peja Stojakovic both had eight.

The first three quarters were wildly entertaining, with each team going through stretches that seemed like they would be capable of taking over.

Dallas got the fun started just a few minutes into the game, with a sweet drive and dish by Kidd to Nowitzki resulting in his first basket. The Mavs went on a 12-2 roll that included a full-court inbounds pass to an uncovered Shawn Marion for a dunk that drew a deafening cheer - and a timeout by the Thunder.

Durant's awesome dunk highlighted Oklahoma City's first rally. He soared high enough to touch the square on the backboard and roared so much afterward that he was hit with a technical foul, although he told official Tom Washington, "All I said is, 'And one.'"

The Thunder led 59-57 at halftime and stretched the lead to eight points, their biggest yet, when Durant dribbled behind his back to clear space for a jumper. Then came Harden's four-point play, starting the game's final shift, and turning this into a whole new series.

"Sometimes you get your butt kicked," Carlisle said. "You've got to take it like a man. Hey, we've got to respond."

Ex-teammate says Lance Armstrong injected EPO



NEW YORK (AP)—Tyler Hamilton, a former teammate of Lance Armstrong, told "60 Minutes" that he used performance-enhancing drugs with the seven-time Tour de France winner to cheat in cycling races, including the tour.

Hamilton said Armstrong took a blood-booster called EPO in the 1999 Tour and before the race in 2000 and 2001. Armstrong won the race every year from 1999-2005.

The interview with Hamilton was broadcast on the "CBS Evening News" on Thursday.

"I saw (EPO) in his refrigerator. ... I saw him inject it more than one time," Hamilton said, "like we all did. Like I did, many, many times."

Hamilton told "60 Minutes" reporter Scott Pelley: "(Armstrong) took what we all took ... the majority of the peloton," referring to riders in the race. "There was EPO ... testosterone ... a blood transfusion."

EPO is a drug that boosts

endurance by increasing the number of red blood cells in the body.

Armstrong has steadfastly denied doping and has never failed a drug test. However, federal authorities are investigating whether Armstrong and his former U.S. Postal team did participate in a systematic doping program.

Hamilton's accusations come a year after Floyd Landis, another former Armstrong teammate, made similar allegations of drug use by Armstrong and the team. And like Landis, Hamilton said Armstrong failed a drug test at the 2001 Tour de Suisse.

Armstrong's attorney Mark Fabiani dismissed the "60 Minutes" report.

"Hamilton is actively seeking to make money by writing a book, and now he has completely changed the story he has always told before so that he could get himself on '60 Minutes' and increase his chances with publishers," Fabiani said in a statement. "But greed and a hunger for publicity cannot change the facts: Lance Arm-

strong is the most tested athlete in the history of sports: He has passed nearly 500 tests over twenty years of competition."

Shortly after Hamilton's comments aired, Armstrong launched a website that refuted the claims and tweeted: "20+ year career. 500 drug controls worldwide, in and out of competition. Never a failed test. I rest my case."

Hamilton won a cycling gold medal at the 2004 Athens Games but failed a drug test later. He was allowed to keep his medal, however, because problems at a laboratory meant his backup 'B' sample could not be tested.

Months later, he was caught blood doping and served a two-year ban which ended in 2007.

Hamilton returned to racing and won the 2008 U.S. road championship, but retired last spring after admitting he took an antidepressant that contained the banned steroid DHEA. He was officially banned from cycling for eight years.

On Thursday, ESPN reported that Hamilton sent a letter to

friends apologizing for lying about his past drug use. He said he testified six hours before the Los Angeles grand jury investigating Armstrong.

Landis was stripped of his 2006 Tour de France title after testing positive for taking synthetic testosterone. He denied taking performance-enhancing drugs for years before admitting he doped for much of his career.

Asked to comment on Hamilton's interview, Landis said in an email to The Associated Press: "The only comment I have is that I wish the best for Tyler."

The "60 Minutes" segment, which will air in its entirety Sunday at 7 p.m. Eastern, also includes an interview with another former Armstrong teammate, Frankie Andreu.

Now one of the race directors at the Tour of California, Andreu told Pelley he took banned substances because lesser riders he believed were doping were passing him. "Training alone wasn't doing it and I think that's how ... many of the other riders during that era felt, I mean, you

kind of didn't have a choice," he is quoted as saying.

Andreu's wife, Betsy, who has said Armstrong discussed taking performance-enhancing drugs as doctors prepared him for cancer treatment in 1996, said she and her husband are working with investigators.

"We are cooperating, and we'll just tell the truth. And telling the truth has been costly," she said. "It's not popular to tell the truth about Lance."

Andreu and Hamilton were both in on the ground floor of Armstrong's record-breaking Tour de France domination, and were among the key cyclists he relied on and lived with as he put his grip on the three-week race.

They both rode with Armstrong for the first two Tours that he won, in 1999 and 2000, all together under U.S. Postal colors. Hamilton rode with Armstrong on his 2001 Tour win for U.S. Postal, too.

Andreu's Tour links with Armstrong also predate the start of his winning streak. Andreu and Armstrong were teamed together at Motorola for the 1993,

'94, '95 and '96 Tours.

In his biography, "It's Not About the Bike," Armstrong described Andreu on that first winning Tour in 1999 as "a big powerful sprinter and our captain, an accomplished veteran who had known me since I was a teenager."

Hamilton was a climber, and one of his jobs was to help haul Armstrong up the Tour's punishing climbs.

Recently, American investigators reached out to their colleagues in France with an evidence request that specifically targets U.S. Postal and mentions Armstrong by name, according to those who have seen it.

The Americans requested urine samples that were taken from U.S. Postal riders for anti-doping controls and were subsequently frozen and stored by France's anti-doping agency. The requested samples included those from the 1999 Tour.

French authorities also have been asked to interview and take witness statements from people there who were connected to U.S. Postal or who worked in French anti-doping while Armstrong dominated cycling's glamour race.

Peguero's sun hit in 9th gives Seattle 2-1 win



SEATTLE
(AP)—Nine-time Gold Glover Torri Hunter

lost Carlos Peguero's fly ball with two outs in the ninth inning in the sun, allowing Jack Cust to score and give the Seattle Mariners a 2-1 win over the Los Angeles Angels in the American League on Thursday.

Seattle swept the brief two-game series in unusual fashion.

Cust started the ninth with a check-swing dribbler up the third base line that beat the Angels defensive shift. A sacrifice bunt and ground out to first moved Cust to third. Peguero then hit a fly ball to left-center field. Hunter was in position but then lost the ball in the bright sun and it fell in for a hit to score Cust.

Doug Fister went eight strong innings, giving up just a solo homer to the Angels' Howie Kendrick. Los Angeles starter Dan Haren also went eight innings, allowing just three hits and one run to the Mariners.

Twins 11, Athletics 1

At Oakland, California, Justin Morneau homered and had three hits and Rene Rivera hit his first home run in nearly five years for suddenly resurgent Minnesota.

Nick Blackburn pitched seven solid innings for Minnesota, which has won three straight—all on the road—following a season-high nine-game losing streak.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 2

At Toronto, J.P. Arencibia hit a tiebreaking two-run homer and Juan Rivera also connected as Toronto beat Tampa Bay.

B.J. Upton and Kelly Shoppach had solo homers for the Rays, losers of four of six.

Ricky Romero (4-4) allowed one run and three hits in seven innings to win consecutive starts for the first time this season. He walked two and struck out six.

Red Sox 4, Tigers 3

At Boston, Carl Crawford hit a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift Boston past Detroit for its season-high sixth straight win.

After blowing a 3-1 lead in the eighth by giving up back-to-back homers to Brennan Boesch and Miguel Cabrera, Boston rallied in the ninth to complete the two-game sweep of the Tigers.



Los Angeles Angels center fielder Torii Hunter loses a deep fly ball from Seattle Mariners' Carlos Peguero in the sun to allow a single by Peguero and the winning run in the ninth inning of a baseball game Thursday, May 19, 2011, in Seattle.

White Sox 8, Indians 2

At Chicago, Gavin Floyd pitched seven solid innings and Carlos Quentin homered as Chicago rocked Fausto Carmona for the second time this season and beat first-place Cleveland.

Floyd (5-3) followed up Jake Peavy's three-hit shutout on Wednesday night by allowing a run and five hits as the White Sox swept the two-game set with the short-handed Indians.

Yankees 13, Orioles 2

At Baltimore, CC Sabathia scattered seven hits over eight shutout innings and Nick Swisher drove in four runs as New York beat Baltimore for a two-game sweep.

Mark Teixeira and Eduardo Nunez homered for the Yankees, who have matched a season high with three straight wins after a six-game skid. New York had 14 hits, including three doubles, three triples and two home runs.

Royals 2, Rangers 1, 10 innings

At Kansas City, Missouri, Jeff Francoeur

hit an RBI single in the 10th inning lifted Kansas City to a 2-1 victory over Texas and end a five-game losing streak.

Greg Holland (1-0), called up from minor league Triple-A Omaha hours earlier, pitched 1 1-3 innings for his first major league win.

Rockies 7, Phillies 1

At Philadelphia, Jason Giambi became the second-oldest player to hit three homers in a game and equaled his career high with seven RBIs as he led the Colorado Rockies past the Philadelphia Phillies.

Jhoulys Chacin was the beneficiary of Giambi's turn-back-the-clock power display. Chacin (5-2) allowed one run and four hits, striking out a season-high nine in seven innings.

Cardinals 4, Astros 2

At St. Louis, first-year starter Kyle McClellan became the National League's first six-game winner as backup catcher Gerald Laird's two-run double helped St. Louis beat Houston for a

two-game sweep.

Allen Craig homered in a three-hit game as the stand-in cleanup batter for injured Matt Holliday. The Cardinals completed a 4-0 homestand behind stingy pitching that allowed only five runs.

Mets 1, Nationals 0

At New York, Dillon Gee (3-0) shut down Washington once again, tossing hitless ball until pitcher Livan Hernandez grounded a clean single with two outs in the sixth inning, in New York's victory.

The game ended with Washington manager Jim Riggleman, catcher Ivan Rodriguez and third-base coach Bo Porter hollering at the umpires, moments after a disputed call.

Pirates 5, Reds 3

At Cincinnati, James McDonald pitched into the seventh inning and Neil Walker doubled home a pair of runs to finish Pittsburgh's two-game sweep of Cincinnati.

The Pirates arrived in town with a

six-game losing streak and came away with their first series sweep in Cincinnati since 2003. They did it with pitching—Charlie Morton threw a five-hitter for a 5-0 win in the opener.

Cubs 5, Marlins 1

At Miami, Casey Coleman had a career-high seven strikeouts in 5 2-3 shutout innings as Chicago completed a two-game series sweep by beating Florida.

Coleman (2-3) walked five but retired five batters with runners in scoring position and lowered his ERA from 7.22 to 6.03.

Diamondbacks 2, Braves 1

At Phoenix, Josh Collmenter blanked Atlanta for six innings to run his scoreless streak to 21 as Arizona handed Jair Jurrjens his first loss of the season with a victory over the Braves.

Collmenter (3-0) gave up two hits with one strikeout and no walks in his second start. The 25-year-old right-hander has allowed two runs in 26 innings, with 15 strikeouts and one walk, since being called up from Triple-A Reno, including a franchise-record 12 scoreless innings in a row as a starter.

Padres 1, Brewers 0

At San Diego, Orlando Hudson hit a sacrifice fly in the ninth inning to give San Diego a win over Milwaukee.

Activated off the 15-day disabled list before the game, Hudson hit a line drive to right field on the first pitch off Marco Estrada (0-2) with the bases loaded to score pinch runner Eric Patterson with the winning run.

Giants 3, Dodgers 1

At Los Angeles, Madison Bumgarner came within an out of his first major league shutout and earned his first victory of the season as Freddy Sanchez drove in two runs to help lead San Francisco over Los Angeles.

Bumgarner (1-6) allowed a run and six hits, including a first-pitch RBI double with two outs in the ninth by rookie Jerry Sands. The 21-year-old left-hander struck out three and walked two in his ninth start of the season. Bumgarner has a 1.32 ERA over his last five outings.

Toms shares Colonial lead at 62 after playoff loss



FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—David Toms is starting to

again feel the kind of confidence he had when he was winning tournaments and consistently ranked among the PGA Tour's best players. That disappointing near-miss before Colonial isn't shaking him.

Four days after losing a playoff at The Players Championship, Toms shot his best score in more than five years and his best opening round ever. His bogey-free 8-under 62 on Thursday gave him a share of the first-round lead at Colonial with Chez Reavie.

"It was one of those days where the hole just looked big," Toms said. "This round certainly helps me get past what happened last week at the end."

After forcing a playoff with K.J. Choi at TPC Sawgrass with a rare bird-

ie at the 18th hole, Toms missed a short par putt at the famed No. 17 island hole that would have extended play. Still, that was Toms' third top-five finish in a stretch of seven tournaments.

"It is nice to be playing good again," the 44-year-old Toms said. "Certainly, I'm not going to try to figure out why. ... I just go out there and play."

His start at Hogan's Alley was his best score in 429 rounds—since a career-best 61 at the Sony Open in Hawaii in January 2006. That was the last of his 12 PGA Tour victories, and at the end of a stretch of eight years when he finished the season ranked 11th or better six times, including three times in the top five.

The 62s by Toms and Reavie matched the lowest 18-hole scores on the PGA Tour this season, and were the best for an opening round. Reavie bettered his career-best round by two strokes.

Rickie Fowler shot a 63, missing a

chance to tie the tournament record after his approach on his final hole, the 407-yard No. 9, hit the green and spun back into the water. He closed with a double-bogey 6 in a round that included an eagle, eight birdies and a three-putt bogey from 6 1/2 feet at the par-3 16th.

Fowler made a 20-foot eagle putt on the par-5 first hole and was 8 under over an eight-hole stretch before hitting his tee shot at his final hole left of a bunker into the rough before his penalized approach. And he still had a 29 on the front side.

"It's a sorry way to finish the round, but I hit it really well, putted well," Fowler said. "A 29 with a double is not too bad. ... I'm excited to be playing well this week and kind of draw off the good out there today. A 63 to start off with is pretty awesome."

Brendon de Jonge, Stewart Cink, Brian Gay, Nathan Green and Charlie Wi each shot 64s, a stroke better than Rod

Pampling, Mark Wilson and John Senden. Wi was the only of the top 11 scorers who played in the afternoon, when more wind made conditions tougher.

Toms shot 31s on both nines at Colonial, starting on the back and wrapping up both sides with long birdie putts. His 27-foot putt at No. 18 started a stretch of three consecutive birdies, and he punctuated his round with a 29-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole.

Though he hit only six of 14 fairways, Toms needed just 24 putts.

"It was one of those days where I saw the lines. I had a lot of putts that barely broke right, barely broke left," he said. "I had a lot of uphill-type putts where you could be aggressive. It's just one of those days where everything seemed to go right."

Colonial has always been one of Toms' favorite tournaments, and he called it "great, great timing" to be this

week after what happened at The Players Championship.

Toms wants to win again to prove to himself that he still can, so it will take more than an impressive rebound round to fully satisfy himself.

"I still need to put all those four rounds together. I was able to do that somewhat last week," Toms said. "I had times back in the early 2000s where I won by a bunch. You know, played with the lead a lot of times and was able to maintain it and increase that. Until I'm able to do that again, I'll still have that doubt."

"But I do feel good about my game certainly," he said. "I'll just keep plugging along, maybe get one here sometime soon."

Reavie is making a comeback from reconstructive surgery on his right knee last year, when he matched his career-best round of 64 at the Byron Nelson Championship in May before being diagnosed with a second meniscus tear in his knee.

DFS tennis draws 80 junior players

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The 2011 DFS Junior Championships will kick off today with 80 players competing in the two-weekend tournament at the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club tennis courts.

The boys U10 singles drew the most participants with 15. The list includes Joshua Abragan, Steven An, Haruya Eda, Cole Chambers, Vincent Tudela, Mondo Taniguchi, Ken Song,

Steven Goodwin, AJ Hudkins, Aditya Rai, Tony Atalig, Sean Lee, Logan Mister, James Hourican, and Robbie Schorr.

The boys U15 singes lured 14 and could have attracted a few more if not for its players moving up to the boys U18 division. Battling for the boys U15 singles championship are Dylan Ackerman, siblings Quintin and Colin Ramsey, Chris Park, Daniel Lim, Primo Po, Bob Kim, Chris Cepeda, Seiya Eda, Aaron Lee, Chris Cajigan, Kennedy Izuka, Moris Villanueva, and Carl Dela Cruz. Moving up to the boys

U18 age group joining Rafael Jones, Daniel Park, and Clay McCullough-Stearns are Angelo Jones, Jake Lee, Amami Sakano, and Christian Miller. Girls U18 player Thea Minor will also compete against the boys.

In the boys U12, only six will be playing in the two-weekend tournament, as several of its players also climbed to the older age group. Alex Park will lead the U12 draw and will be joined by Michael Jones, James Kim, Michael Ren, Luther Lizama, and Clayton Izuka.

In the girls U12, the field is

down to only four players in Julia Ishikawa, Liza Atalig, Carol Lee, and Isabel Heras. Several players from the girls U12 will now be playing in the U15. They are Tammy Ackerman, Emily Jones, and Alina Ishikawa. Completing the list are Melody Johnson, Mikayla Lopez, Negahr Rastguiy, Jasmin Rayphand, and Adele Hudkins.

Johnson is also entered in the girls U18, competing against the Minor sisters—Thea and Theecel—Amy Arenovski, Yuri Song, and Jodel Fernandez.

In the girls U8, eight players

will fight for the championship. They are Malika Miyawaki, Ami Tsukagoshi, Sally Hwang, Mimi Sakano, Catherine Atalig, Tania Tan, Gillian Villagomez, and Hana Nelson.

This year's DFS tennis will also feature a co-ed mini competition for U10 division. The mini tennis field includes Yna Poquiz, Richard Steele, Daniele Colombo, Sakura Sato, Ellie Epley, Conatsu and Coume Kaga, Asia Raulerson, Gang Min Kim, and Amber Montenegro.

In the doubles, only four divisions will be played with Jake Lee and Daniel Park teaming up in the boys U18. Four other pairs are entered in the boys U18 division: brothers Angelo and Rafael

Jones, Cajigan and Chris Park, Bob Kim and Cepeda, Seiya Eda and Lee. In the girls division, Ackerman will pair with Rastguiy, Johnson will team up with Lopez, and Ishikawa will join forces with Rayphand.

In the boys U12, the pairings are Alex Park and Clayton Izuka; Haruya Eda and Song; Goodwin and Ren; Villanueva and Dela Cruz; and Mister and Chambers. The girls U12 has only three teams in Julia Ishikawa and Tan, sisters Catherine and Liza Atalig, and Carol Lee and Emily Jones.

Preliminary games will be played this weekend, while the championship round will take place next weekend.

LADY

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will be released next week.

MCS 12, KHS 11

KHS mustered four runs in the top half off six walks, some errors, and a base hit by Janica Lizama, but MCS answered in the bottom frame with nine runs off 11 walks and errors.

The count shifted to 12-7 in the second frame. KHS managed two runs off a pair of walks and a couple of base hits by Lizama and Zerah Castro, while MCS added three runs in the bottom frame off two walks and a pair of base rips by Kim Sablan and Ryann Yamagata.

KHS held MCS scoreless for the remainder of the game, but came up a run short of pulling off the comeback.

KHS added a run in each of the last four frames, but MCS escaped and left KHS with the bases loaded in its final stand.

MHS 1 14, MCS 4

MHS 1 managed an early 2-1 lead after the opening frame as an RBI single by MCS' Carey Demapan was answered with two runs off four walks and errors in the bottom frame.

The Lady Dolphins then added a run in the second off a base rip, but MCS pulled ahead, 4-3, in the top of the third off four hits.

However, MHS 1 exploded with six runs in the fourth and

shot ahead, 9-4, off five hits and two walks.

MCS only managed one base runner after the third frame, while MHS 1 added a run off four hits and a walk in the fifth, and poured in four more in the sixth off three hits and a pair of walks.

MHS' Hermina Kelley batted 3-for-3 with three runs, while teammate Jaime Mendoza swang 3-for-3 with two runs and a base on balls.

SSHS 13, KHS 5

The Lady Manta Rays took an early 4-0 lead in the opening frame off an error, a fielder's choice, and a two-RBI base hit by Cathy Amandus. KHS left ducks on the pond in the bottom frame.

Then with two outs in the

frame, Southern amassed a 12-0 lead in the second with eight runs off a pair of RBI singles by Jenny Scaliem and Coquina Teregeyo, a fielder's choice, errors, four walks, and two bean balls.

KHS finally produced some offense in the third in the form of three runs off two walks, a fielder's choice, and errors, but Southern's Tara Ramon got a run back for her team in the bottom frame with a RBI fielder's choice.

KHS managed two more runs in the fourth off a passed ball and some errant throws, but came up empty in the fifth and final frame.

The game was called off two innings premature due to time constraints.

McDONALD'S

From Page 28

"We want to see you again next year and in the years to come, as we want to help you improve and someday represent the CNMI in regional tournaments. You can also use

the program to prepare for college, just like what Yvonne Bennett did," Sapong said.

Bennett was a product of the All Schools competition, dominating the sprint races in the U18 category and helping Kagman High School stand its ground against the favored MHS. Last year, she was a

walk-in for Boise State University, an NCAA Division I school, and in less than a year became a regular member of the Bronco women's track and field team.

She was part of BSU's 4x400m relay squad that broke the Bronco's 23-year record in the event. Bennett and company

timed in at three minutes, 44.64 seconds in a tournament in February to eclipse the Bronco's former record of 3:45.60 made in 1988.

"If Yvonne can do it and make it to an NCAA Division I team, you can do it too if you continue working hard," Sapong said.

LAST

From Page 28

against Fielders' Shane Mendiola and only managed two base runners in the first three innings. Fielders' Reyes cracked an RBI single in the bottom of the third and scored later off an error and both teams traded a run in the fourth frame.

Masters' Jess Mesa hit a two-out triple in the top half of the fourth and was doubled in by Reno Celis, but Fielders' Mendiola drove in Ionis Rasa in the bottom frame.

The Masters managed two runs off an error and a wild pitch in the fifth, but the Fielders went ahead, 11-3, off an RBI

single by Cadez Tenorio in the sixth inning.

Masters only came up with a run off an error in their final stand.

Winning pitcher Mendiola went all nine and gave up one earned run off eight hits with 11 strikeouts. Teammate John Reyes batted 4-for-4 with two RBIs, three runs, three stolen bases, and a hit-by-pitch

Masters 9, IT&E Ol'Aces 5

Masters hit the board first off a fielder's choice that scored Ron Benavente. However, IT&E Ol'Aces jumped ahead, 4-1, in the second off a pair of RBI singles by Leonerd Sablan and Chris George to go with a run off a fielder's choice and an error.

Master got two runs back in the third off a triple by Greg Camacho and a single by Jess Mesa.

Then IT&E went ahead, 5-3, in the fifth off a fielder's choice that scored Jack Lizama.

Masters pulled within a run in the fifth off a base rip by Camacho and tied the game at 5-all in the seventh off an RBI knock by Dave Kapileo.

Both teams came up empty in the final two innings of regulation and the game was extended into extras.

Notably, in the bottom of the ninth, IT&E's Sablan led off with a bunt and was moved into scoring position an out later. Dennis Cruz then cracked a line drive to right field that

waived Sablan to the plate, but Masters' Jason Reyes gunned down the would-be winning run at the plate.

Then after a quiet 10th, the Masters mustered four runs in the 11th off an error, a double by Camacho, a single by Mesa, and a wild pitch and went on to squeeze the last three outs.

Winning pitcher Reno Celis gave up one unearned run in seven innings off eight hits and a walk with eight strikeouts.

Masters' Camacho batted 3-for-6 with three RBIs, a run, and a stolen base.

The SML season continues at the Tan Ko field on Monday at 6:30pm when the Masters square off against the Brewers in a win-or-go home duel.

SMART

From Page 28

ness' Ivan Devero turned in 25 on the short end.

In the second game, Rollers Happiness ran the court pretty well with last year's runner-up squad in the first 10 minutes, but Ferrera Builders gashed open a 44-33 lead in the second quarter thanks largely to 12 markers

from Kae Bernardo.

Rollers Happiness buckled down on defense after halftime, but still trailed, 63-54, heading into the last quarter.

Ferrera Builders' James Wabinga came off the bench and delivered nine points as his team tallied over 30 points in the fourth, while Rollers Happiness was limited to just 14 points.

Bernardo finished with a game-high 25 points, while Patrick Torres

led Rollers Happiness with 17.

First Game

Smart Cagers 92 – Barbo 27, Iguel 24, De Dios 10, Usi 8, Manolo 7, Ngeskebei 7, Peredo 5, Montano 4.

Rollers Madness 87 – Devero 25, Villacrusis 20, Matagolai 13, Hambros 7, Norita 6, Lisua 4, Reyes 4, Rasa 3, Ulloa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-13, 39-38, 65-63, 92-87.

Second Game

Ferrera Builders 95 – Bernardo 25, Miranda 18, Abuy 13, Demapan 9, Wabinga 9, Yabut 9, David 8, Cruz 4.

Rollers Happiness 68 – Torres 17, Aughenbaugh 15, Reyes 13, Aulerio 9, Cabrera 4, Cepeda 2, Norita 2, Brennan 2, Babauta 1.

Scoring by quarters: 23-19, 44-33, 63-54, 95-68.

RGA May Ace at MCC Sunday



The Refaluwasch Golfers Association will be having its May Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday at the Marianas Country Club.

Check-in time is 11am, while tee off is at 12pm.

RGA failed to hold a qualifying tournament for May so winner of the weekend event

will automatically take this month's Ace.

Members are requested to bring food for the potluck after the tournament.

RGA is still open for membership at \$25 per year. For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Tars Ol-opai at 483-5508, Tony Rogoli-foi at 288-3515, and Jess Wabol at 288-1129. **(PR)**

SPORTS BRIEFS

MLB STANDINGS					Boston 4, Detroit 3 Chicago White Sox 8, Cleveland 2 Kansas City 2, Texas 1, 10 innings
AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division					COLONIAL SCORES
	W	L	Pct	GB	FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) —Partial scores Thursday from the \$6.2-million Colonial golf tournament, played at the par-70 (35-35), 7,204-yard Colonial Country Club
Tampa Bay	25	19	.568	—	FIRST ROUND
New York	23	19	.548	1	David Toms 31-31—62
Boston	23	20	.535	1 1/2	Chez Reavie 32-30—62
Toronto	22	21	.512	2 1/2	Rickie Fowler 29-34—63
Baltimore	19	23	.452	5	Brendon de Jonge 34-30—64
Central Division					Stewart Cink 32-32—64
Cleveland	26	15	.634	—	Brian Gay 31-33—64
Detroit	22	21	.512	5	Nathan Green 34-30—64
Kansas City	21	22	.488	6	Charlie Wi 33-31—64
Chicago	20	25	.444	8	Rod Pampling 33-32—65
Minnesota	15	27	.357	11 1/2	Mark Wilson 31-34—65
West Division					John Senden 33-32—65
Texas	23	21	.523	—	Boo Weekley 32-34—66
Oakland	22	22	.500	1	Adam Scott 33-33—66
Los Angeles	22	23	.489	1 1/2	Henrik Stenson 34-32—66
Seattle	19	24	.442	3 1/2	Spencer Levin 33-33—66
NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division					Tommy Gainey 33-33—66
Philadelphia	26	17	.605	—	Kent Jones 34-32—66
Florida	24	18	.571	1 1/2	Sergio Garcia 33-33—66
Atlanta	25	21	.543	2 1/2	Marc Leishman 33-33—66
New York	21	22	.488	5	Steve Marino 35-31—66
Washington	20	23	.465	6	John Mallinger 33-34—67
Central Division					Bill Haas 33-34—67
St. Louis	26	19	.578	—	Jim Furyk 33-34—67
Cincinnati	25	19	.568	1/2	Anthony Kim 30-37—67
Milwaukee	21	23	.477	4 1/2	Jeff Overton 34-33—67
Pittsburgh	20	23	.465	5	Chris Kirk 35-32—67
Chicago	19	23	.452	5 1/2	Hunter Mahan 33-34—67
Houston	15	29	.341	10 1/2	Tim Petrovic 33-34—67
West Division					D.J. Trahan 33-34—67
San Francisco	24	19	.558	—	Kevin Chappell 32-35—67
Colorado	23	19	.548	1/2	Steven Bowditch 32-35—67
Arizona	20	23	.465	4	Josh Teater 35-33—68
Los Angeles	20	25	.444	5	Bo Van Pelt 34-34—68
San Diego	19	25	.432	5 1/2	Jason Dufner 34-34—68
Yesterday's Games					David Hearn 36-32—68
Pittsburgh 5, Cincinnati 3					Zach Johnson 34-34—68
N.Y. Mets 1, Washington 0					Rory Sabbatini 33-35—68
St. Louis 4, Houston 2					Cameron Beckman 34-34—68
Colorado 7, Philadelphia 1					Steve Flesch 33-36—69
Chicago Cubs 5, Florida 1					Tim Herron 34-35—69
Arizona 2, Atlanta 1					Robert Karlsson 33-36—69
San Diego 1, Milwaukee 0					Ryan Palmer 36-33—69
San Francisco 3, L.A. Dodgers 1					Brandt Snedeker 32-37—69
Minnesota 11, Oakland 1					Martin Laird 33-36—69
Seattle 2, L.A. Angels 1					Chris DiMarco 36-33—69
N.Y. Yankees 13, Baltimore 2					William McGirt 34-35—69
Toronto 3, Tampa Bay 2					Kris Blanks 36-33—69
					Kevin Na 32-37—69



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Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lady Rays complete regular season sweep



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Mount Carmel School's Mikki Kautz cracks a base hit in last Thursday's MISO fast-pitch softball game against Kagman High School at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa-Pangelinan Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School beat Kagman High School last Monday to wrap up an undefeated regular season in the 2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls fast-pitch softball tournament.

The Lady Manta Rays blitzed the Lady Ayuyus, 13-5, at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa-Pangelinan Ballfield to complete a four-game sweep of the preliminary round.

The victory allowed Southern to earn the top seed in next week-end's two-day double elimination playoff round.

In other results, Mount Carmel School fended off the Lady Ayuyus, 12-11, last Thursday. It was a bounce-back performance



for the Lady Knights following their 4-14 loss at the hands of second-ranked Marianas High School 1 (3-1) last Wednesday.

The win evened MCS' record to 2-2, while Kagman High School finished the first round at 1-3.

The playoff tournament will be held at the Tan Ge Field from May 27 to May 28. The championship match is scheduled for 4pm on Saturday; more details

See LADY on Page 27

McDonald's honors outstanding athletes



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

McDonald's store manager Marcia Ayuyu, second left front row, joins the outstanding athletes, their coaches, and NMA officials for a group photo during the recognition ceremony for the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



McDonald's recognized the 12 outstanding student-athletes in the 2011 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships during a trophy presentation at its Middle Road store yesterday.

"McDonald's would like to commend you for all the efforts you exerted during the competition. You showed great talents and dedication and for that McDonald's is proud of your achievements," said McDonald's store manager Marcia Ayuyu, who also acknowledged the coaches, teachers, and parents of participating students.

"Without your support, these students will not be able to compete and excel. McDonald's would like to congratulate the parents and coaches-teachers of these students," Ayuyu said.

The McDonald's store manager joined Hopwood Junior High School principal and Public School System representative Jonas Barcinas, Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tebuteb, and NMA secretary general Robin Sapong in the presentation of trophies to the athletes who shone in the May 6 and 7 competition. The list includes U18's Ryan Ichihara, Jim Lacsina, Rachel Abrams, and Lia Rangamar of Marianas High School, U14's Lyndin Johnson of Saipan Community School and Juan Babauta of Hopwood, U12's Tammy Ackerman of SCS and John Quitugua Jr. of Tanapag, U10's Coby Santos and Roca Kasian of Koblerville, and U12's Naoki Kasai of Whispering Palms and Maya Ngemaes of Koblerville.

Sapong before presenting the trophies to the selected athletes encouraged them to stay in the program, as this could give them rewards in the future.

See McDONALD'S on Page 27

Last playoff spot still up for grabs

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Masters bounced back from a 2-13 loss to top-ranked S h e l l

Fielders last Wednesday with an 11-inning, 9-5 victory over the IT&E Ol'Aces Thursday night as the Saipan Major League continued at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win kept the Masters' postseason hopes alive, tying both the Ol'Aces and the Tan Holdings Brewers in the standings—all three share identical win-loss records of 3-5.

The defending champion Fielders are ahead of the pack at 7-1, however the St. Michael's Angels are gleaming in the rear view mirror at 6-2. D-9ers are

alone in third place with an even 4-4 card.

Fielders 11, Masters 4
Fielders jumped out to a demoralizing 10-1 lead after just four innings.

They broke the ice in the opening frame off two hits and

an error and then exploded with six runs in the second frame.

Elton Santos, John Reyes, and Juan Manibusan all ripped RBIs singles, while Anthony Tenorio smashed a two-RBI base hit. The other run came home off an error.

Masters struggled at the plate

See LAST on Page 27



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Masters' Greg Camacho batted 3-for-6 with three RBIs, a run, and a stolen base against the IT&E Ol'Aces in last Thursday's SML game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Smart Cagers survive Madness, 92-87

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Smart Cagers and Ferrea Builders both notched wins over separate opponents as the 2011 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup continued Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Smart Cagers held strong late in the first game to outlast Rollers Madness, 92-87; while

Ferrea Builders routed Rollers Happiness, 95-68, in the late game.

Seven points from Smart Cagers' Pete Iguel helped build an early 21-13 lead in the opening 10 minutes.

Rollers Madness battled back and pulled within a point, 38-39, at the half. Rollers Madness' James Villacrusis delivered seven points in the comeback.

Smart Cagers then buried four 3-pointers in the third quarter and managed a two-point

lead, 65-63, heading into the final period.

Rollers Madness battled back at crunch time and put Smart Cagers to the test at the stripe, however Smart Cagers converted 14 free throws in the fourth quarter to secure the victory.

Darwin Barbo came up big for Smart Cagers in the clutch, tallying 13 points, nine from the free throw line.

He finished with a game-high 27 points, while Rollers Mad-

See SMART on Page 27